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Legislative Assembly, Dakota Territory---Tenth Session.

SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT

OF

JAMES S. FOSTER,

Commissioner of Immigration,

TO THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

OF

DAKOTA TERRITORY.

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 16TH, 1872

Ordered Printed by Resolution of House of Representatives.

YANKTON, DAKOTA.
STONE & KINGSBURY, PUBLIC PRINTERS.
1872

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION,
YANKTON, D. T., Dec. 7, 1872.

To the Honorable Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota:

I transmit herewith the Second Biennial Report of the Commissioner of Immigration, for the Territory of Dakota, as required by statute. I trust your knowledge of the importance of the subject of Immigration, and of the means necessary to be used to secure for our Territory its just proportion of immigrants now leaving the Old Country, as well as those removing from the East, to more desirable places at the West, will prompt your Honorable body to make such appropriations for this Bureau as the importance of the subject demands, and the condition of the finances of the Territory will allow.

Very Respectfully,

JAMES S. FOSTER,

Commissioner of Immigration.

REPORT.

Gentlemen of the Council and House of Representatives:

The law establishing the Bureau of Immigration requires the Commissioner to report to the Legislature the result of his labors with such suggestions as he may deem proper.

The appropriations heretofore made have been so small that but little has been attempted in aid of foreign emigration. Five thousand copies of a small pamphlet in the Sweadish language has been printed and circulated as widely as possible. Aid has also been given to small extent to a later and larger work prepared by F. Dahl and printed in the Scandinavian language. These works have been sent in answer to letters of inquiry from Scandinavians from other States, and many of them have been sent to the old country by citizens of Dakota, who have been desirous of giving information to the friends and relatives.

Pamphlets descriptive of Dakota, printed in the English language, have been provided and furnished free to applicants at the office of the Commissioner and sent post paid by mail to parties desiring information from other States and Territories. About 3,000 English pamphlets have been distributed in this manner during the last two years. Upwards of two hundred letters have been written by the Commissioner during the same time, in answer to such letters on the subject of immigration as could not properly be answered by mailing printed documents. In addition to this the Commissioner has mailed over six hundred copies of the newspapers published in the Territory, to persons seeking information, an equal number of each paper published in the Territory having been sent—Besides the printed documents and newspapers sent and the letters written to individuals and colonies, the Commissioner

has furnished matter for one column in each number of Croufttt's Western World," a paper devoted to the interests of the West, the proprietor of which has generously devoted the use of one column in each paper for the benefit of this Territory. The result of the free circulation of information concerning the Territory and its advantages for settlers, has been gratifying indeed. The population of the Territory, has been increased by thousands during the last year, and present indications are that the number of immigrants next year will greatly exceed that of any previous year. Heretofore no railroads could convey immigrants on to the soil of Dakota. Now we have three important lines running into the very heart of the Territory, each of which can transport its thousands to our "free lands" if we can prevail upon the people to settle here. Nature has given us a beautiful country, with fertile soil, good climate, sweet running water, a moderate supply of timber—in short everything desirable by immigrants wishing to engage in agricultural pursuits. Our duty is to spread information and to advertise our section abroad. Other States and Territories expend thousands upon thousands of dollars to induce laborers, farmers, mechanics, professional men and capitalists, to locate within their boundaries, and all agree that is the best paying investment these States have ever made. Kansas has expended tens of thousands annually for immigration purposes alone, and her growth has been unparalleled both in rapidity and solidity of her settlements. Minnesota has been liberal in this direction, and her rapid growth proves the wisdom of her legislators in making the necessary appropriations. The young State of Nebraska is also imitating the example of her sister States and is making munificent appropriations to induce immigration. These States expend large sums in sending agents abroad and supplying them with printed matter for distribution among the people at their homes in the old world. It is conceded by all emigrant agents, that the destination of most emigrants is fixed before they leave the land of their birth, and it would be useless to try to persuade them to go to a different locality from that first selected by the emigrant, for they purchase "through tickets" from the European ports to the interior city of the West nearest to their place of distination. Therefore if we desire European immigration to any considerable

extent we must send agents and pamphlets to Europe, who will labor to circulate information and induce emigrants to purchase tickets direct to Dakota towns, and then we can expect an influx of immigration that would soon cover our fertile prairies with thriving "Homesteaders" and furnish us laborers at living prices. It is estimated that the immigration of 1872 added $285,000,000 to the national wealth of the country, at a low estimate, considering the emigrants all common laborers, which they are not. Very many of the male emigrants (probably thirty per cent.) have been trained to various pursuits and are therefore "skilled laborers." The value of this class of emigrants to any country can hardly be estimated. Let us ask what proportion of these emigrants with their wealth of labor and of capital has Dakota received? It is hardly worth mentioning. It is but a small portion of what it ought to have been, and might have been, had we been able to advertise Dakota, as Kansas, Minnesota, and Nebraska have been advertised by their emigrant agents.

Our neighboring States and Territories, too, have sent pamphlets and newspapers broadcast over the Eastern States so plentifully that the inhabitants of the New England and Middle States have become well acquainted with every section of Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota. We must do the sam for Dakota, if we expect to receive our share of the immigration now leaving the States. Every family induced to settle on our fertile lands is a valuable addition to our material wealth —every mechanic added to the number now in the Territory increases our manufacturing capacity and encourages the introduction and investment of foreign capital. The subject of immigration is one upon which not only the people of Dakota but the whole Northwest are a *unit*. Immigration is the life of business in a new country. It gives patronage to the railroads; it encourages manufactures, because emigrants must purchase entirely new household goods and farming implements. It builds up cities and towns, and makes a market for the products of the farmer. All classes and every branch of business feel its favorable effects. Wherever immigration is pouring in, there business is lively; every branch of business is patronized, and each individual is benefitted because of the general prosperity of the whole community.

I would recommend that an appropriation be made suffi-

cient to enable the Commissioner to publish pamphlets in the English, German and Scandinavian languages. I am confident that citizens of the Territory, who may have business to transact in the old country, can be induced to labor a portion of the time for immigration without much remuneration. If such persons could be furnished with printed information, descriptive of the Territory, much good could be accomplished at a moderate expense. Two thousand dollars, I think could be profitably expended for foreign emigration. I would also recommend the establishment of a museum of agriculture and mineral products of the Territory, in connection with the office of the Commissioner, in which could be displayed specimens of coal, stone, ore, brick-clay, and other minerals; also samples of the different grains, with the yield per acre, and weight per bushel, together with such samples of fruit and vegetables as might be offered for exhibition. The proper exhibition of the productions of the soil is considered of so much importance that the State of Nebraska pays large premiums to insure their collection for exhibition at the office of the Board of Immigration. I would also suggest that the Commissioner of Immigration be made *ex-officio* Territorial Librarian, and that the miscellaneous library, be kept in connection with the Museum of Agriculture and Minerals. It is further recommended that an appropriation be made for the salary of a clerk, and the incidental expenses of the Bureau.

The numerous letters received by the Commissioner from all parts of the Territory asking that mention be made of the writer's locality in the Territorial emigration pamphlet, shows conclusively the lively interest felt in the subject of immigration by the people of the Territory. If the Legislature fails to make suitable appropriations for emigration purposes, the expectations and wishes of the people will not be met. The great inquiry now being made for information concerning Dakota, gives us assurance that now it the time to advertize the Territory. Every pamphlet sent to an eastern inquirer insures one more settlers. If every settler now in the Territory would be furnished with a pamphlet descriptive of the Territory and its advantages, and would send it to some friend at the east, the population of the Territory could be doubled in two years. What Dakota wants is settlers, with or without capital laborers, farmers, mechanics, and profes-

sional men. There is room for all. Let the present be improved. Let appropriations be made for sending pamphlets and newspapers abroad. Let the Territory be advertized *now*, and we predict that great good will result therefrom.

Having called the attention of your honorable body to the subject of immigration, I trust you will consider its importance and make such appropriations as in your judgment the importance of this subject demands. The accompanying letters from citizens of the Territory, give the information desired by persons seeking a new location, and represent fairly the claims of each section. We recommend that they be printed with this report.

JAMES S. FOSTER,
Commissioner of Immigration.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE,

DESCRIPTIVE OF THE

TERRITORY OF DAKOTA.

BON HOMME COUNTY.

Its Geographical Position—Area of Fertile Land—Extent of Timber Supply of Living Water—Producing Capacity of Soil—Towns and Villages—Railroads in Prospect—Schools and Churches—Superior Inducements to Immigrants.

Bon Homme county lies the farthest west of any organized county in the Territory, except one—Charles Mix—which as yet is but sparsely settled. It is bounded on the north by Hutchinson county, on the west by Choteau creek, on the south by the Missouri river, and on the east by Yankton county. A line drawn due west from McGregor, Iowa, would pass directly through the center of the county, while one drawn due south would pass nearly through the center of Nebraska and Kansas. As McGregor is on a direct line west of Milwaukee, and the central line north and south strikes the Arkansas river, about where the Southern Pacific is likely to cross that stream, and the Dakota river about where the Northern Pacific will cross that stream, it will readily be seen that our geographical position is an important one, viewed in connection with the great railroad enterprises of the day.

AREA OF LAND.

Bon Homme county embraces an area of 25 miles square, or about 400,000 acres of arable land. Its soil is a dark, rich, sandy loam, easy of cultivation, and produces all kinds of crops in great abundance. There is scarcely a foot of untillable or waste land in the whole county. Such a thing as a slough, or ponds of stagnant water, is unknown. The general surface of the country is slightly rolling, but not more so than is necessary for good drainage. Stone is found in ample quantities for building purposes, but is not so plenty as to be a source of annoyance or a drug in the market. Timber,

richer, or more fertile body of land the sun never shone upon than that embraced in Bon Homme county. Nearly 200,000 acres of her vast domain is now open to pre-emption and homestead entry. Here are lands for the landless and homes for the homeless. Our sturdy tillers of the soil in the densely populated States, who barely manage to make a decent living for themselves and family by ceaseless toiling on rented ground, can come here and be independent in a very short time, with a snug farm, well stocked and under a good state of cultivation, all their own. The laboring man, with a wife and family of children to support, may cling to his old eastern home all his days, barely earning enough to meet the pressing needs of his family from day to day, when by coming here he could become possessed of 160 acres of land at a cost of $18, and in a few years be abundently able to live without hard work. There is a duty—a plain unvarnished, imperative duty devolving upon every man to provide for the present and future welfare of himself and family to the best of his ability. Is he faithfully discharging that sacred duty by remaining at the east and keeping himself and family in pinching penury, if not in actual want, when by coming here he could soon secure a competency? We conjure the man in moderate means to look at this question in its right light, and regulate his actions accordingly.

TIMBER—EXTENT AND KIND

It is an admitted fact that Bon Homme county has as much good timber within its borders as any other organized county in the Territory. The largest proportion of this timber is cottonwood, yet oak, ash, elm, hackberry, and cedar are found to a considerable extent. Good timbered land is worth from $20 to $40 per acre, while some has been sold as low as $10 per acre. Three thousand acres will hardly cover the extent of our timbered lands, which is more than ample to supply the needs of the county until large tracts of it can be grown. This item of timber, while it is one that deserves some attention, is by no means so all important as many are disposed to make it. So long as there is sufficient timber for fuel and building purposes in any country, there need be no fears on the part of settlers that they will ever run short of that useful commodity. The young timber now being grown in the county far exceeds the domestic consumption, and we predict

that in ten years hence the area of standing timber in this county will be much greater than it is to-day. Parties who are so tenacious on the timber question, however, can settle in Bon Homme county with perfect security that they can get all the timber they want for building and fuel purposes, and when those wants are supplied, what more can a party reasonably ask for?

THE SUPPLY OF WATER.

No county in the Territory is any better, if as well, supplied with living water than Bon Homme. Emanuel Creek, universally acknowledged to be one of the finest streams in the Territory, courses from north to south about through the center of the county, furnishing a never failing supply of pure water to a vast section of country through which it passes. It is about twenty miles long and has a number of branches or feeders. Land along this stream is rapidly being taken, much of it having already been secured for a number of miles up its channel. This stream abounds with ordinary brook fish, including fine large pickerel. To the west of this stream is Choteau Creek, a fine stream of water, equal in volume to Emanuel, which forms the western boundary of the county. Between Emanuel and Choteau lies vacant some of the most beautiful land a man ever looked upon, with plenty of timber in easy reach. The new settler should visit that section by all means before locating elsewhere. The next stream east of Emanuel is Cooper creek. It is a small stream, yet seldom fails to furnish ample water for stock the year round. Still further east we come to Silver creek, Owens creek, and Snatch creek, all of them bearing about the same description as Cooper, and empty into the Missouri; while in the northeast portion of the county, rises Dawson creek, which flows into the Dakota river. These seven streams, with their tributaries and branches, constitute the running water of the county, aside from the great Missouri which forms its southern boundary and separates us from the State of Nebraska.

About due north from the town of Springfield, near the central portion of the county, there are known to be a number of beautiful lakes, of small dimensions, with pure, clear water in them. With these, and the streams we have already mentioned, can any one say that Bon Homme county is not well supplied with water? That every settler will be able to

get living water on his claim, we do not pretend to say; such a thing is hardly possible in any country, especially where the good land largely predominates over the bad.

PRODUCING CAPACITY OF THE SOIL

We have already stated that the lands of Bon Homme county are as rich and fertile as any the sun ever shone upon but however rich and beautiful land may be, if it does not produce good crops it is not considered desirable for tillage It is the *producing capacity* of land that makes it valuable, and we propose to cite to a few instances which have come under the personal observation of the writer, as an evidence of the producing capacity of the land of Bon Homme county Mr. William Allen owns and occupies a claim about 2½ miles west of Springfield, on Emanuel creek He is an aged man in feeble health, and not able to do much work Last year he raised from eight acres of land the following crops.

320 bushels of corn.
13 wagon load of squashes
4 wagon loads of pumpkins
4 bushels of onions.
8½ bushels of beets
$80.82 worth of water melons
300 bushels of potatoes.
50 bushels of turnips
12 bushels of beans
1 bushel of peas

From the above crop he realized about $500, or *fifty dollars per acre*, net cash.

Mr. S J. Hoyt, who has a farm about five miles west of Springfield, raised this season, 1872 forty three bushels of spring wheat to the acre, and a proportionately good crop of corn and potatoes. John A Lee, who lives within the corporate limits of Springfield informs the writer that 500 bushels of potatoes is not an unusual crop These few citations will serve to show the producing capacity of our soil, which we believe is not surpassed by the soil of any other State or territory, if indeed, it is equalled

BON HOMME

Is the present capitol of the county it is handsomely situated on the Missouri river, about twenty two miles west of

Yankton, and has a good steamboat landing. It is the oldest town in the county, having been permanently settled in 1860. It is surrounded by a fine agricultural district but has not improved with that rapidity usually characteristic of western towns. Its estimated population at this writing is about 125. It has a good school, two mercantile establishments, two hotels, a saloon, blacksmith shop, &c., and a sawmill. It was incorporated as a village in 1862, and as a city in 1871.

SPRINGFIELD.

This town is situated on the left bank of the Missouri river, 30 miles west of Yankton, and 95 miles west of Sioux City, Iowa. It is regularly laid out, and occupies a commanding position overlooking the mighty Missouri for many miles both up and down its channel. The first permanent settlement of the town was made in the Spring of 1870, at which time the town was surveyed and platted into lots. Geographically it is the center of the county east and west, and when the county becomes more densely populated it will undoubtly be made the seat of government. It has had a rapid and surprising growth, its population now numbering over two hundred. The United States District Land Office is located here, besides which it has four mercantile establishments, a telegraph office, several law offices, the best hotel in the county, a boot and shoe factory, blacksmith and carpenter shops, a printing office, from which is published weekly the *Springfield Times*, and various other business houses. The energy and enterprise of its citizens is a sure guarantee of its future growth and marked prosperity, and the many fine residences which now adorne its corporate limits are but imperfect indexes of what the future will bring forth. No town in the Territory presents to-day more encouraging prospects, and to those who are looking for business locations, we can unhesitatingly point them to Springfield, as one of the best among the many excellent points to be found in Dakota.

RAILROAD PROSPECTS.

The railroad prospects of Bon Homme county are most flattering. The main line of the Grand Trunk Railroad is already surveyed from Springfield to intersect the Winona & St. Peter, which enters the Territory from Minnesota, about 100 miles above Sioux Falls. The Dakota Southern will be extended from Yankton to Springfield in due time, while a

branch of the Grand Trunk now partially surveyed will also start from Springfield and tap the Northern Pacific at the Missouri river crossing. Other lines are also seriously contemplated, and among them all it is morally certain that at least some of them will be built.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES.

Bon Homme county is well supplied with good schools and new school districts are being organized and schools put in operation as fast as the wants of the inhabitants demand. The coming year will also see one or two churches erected in the village of Springfield, where regular church services are now held three times every sabbath. The interest of the people in church and school matters is thorough, and nothing will be left undone to further the cause of education and the Christianization of the masses.

INDUCEMENTS TO IMMIGRANTS.

The inducements to immigrants to enter and select homes in Bon Homme county may be inferred from the above imperfect recital of facts concerning its soil, timber, water, schools, &c., but to briefly recapitulate, let us see what superior inducements are really offered to the new settler who locates in Bon Homme county:

1. Our lands are free, nominally to the actual settler, and cannot be bought by speculators.

2. We have a fine body of land yet open to settlement—rich, fertile and productive, as there is in the Territory.

3. We have a greater body of timber than most other counties in the Territory.

4. We have plenty of living, running water, embracing some of the finest streams in the country.

5. Our geographical position is such that if ever a line of railroad is built through Dakota to tap the Northern Pacific, its natural route will be through our county.

6. We have good schools, church societies, stores, and a better market than any of the counties east of us.

The argument is before you. We have endeavored to simply state facts. Read it, digest it, and if you are not satisfied, come and see for yourself.

BON HOMME D. T., December 1st, 1872.

Commissioner of Immigration:

DEAR SIR:—Bon Homme county lies west of Yankton county and extends north of the James river and Hutchinson county, and west to the Yankton Reserve, while its south boundary line is the Missouri river. This county possesses many advantages over the other counties of Dakota. First it is the western terminus of the free lands, being as far west as the Homestead and Pre-emption laws extend. Second, it has the advantage of being the first to meet the up-river trade as it comes down from the forts and settlements above us on the river. The surplus produets of this county fully developed will not satisfy this profitable trad. Bon Homme county has six hundred square miles which is comparatively unsettled and has a declining slope towards the Missouri river and the south. The surface of the county is gently rolling prairie intersected with frequent streams of running water. It is useless to comment upon the soil of this section. It has been tested and found to be equal to that of any Western State. The agricultural products of the county cannot be surpassed in quality or quantity. For small grains our soil exceeds the Mississippi States. Domestic fruits that are successfully cultivated in this latitude east are successfully cultivated here. The prairie grass that grows on our prairies is by far the most nutritious for animal food that grows on any land yet discovered by energetic "emigrants."

BON HOMME.

Bon Homme is the county seat of the county and is beautifully situated on the north bank of the Missouri river and is one of the most superior town sites on the river. Bon Homme is a prosperous and thriving town and bids fair to become one of the most important towns of Southern Dakota. The Dakota Southern railroad now approaching this town from the east is constructed to Yankton now only twenty miles distant Its near approach is hailed with joy, for its influence will be felt in every department of business.

SPRINGFIELD.

The young town of Springfield lies also on the Missouri river eight miles west of Bon Homme.

VACANT LANDS.

About one-fourth of the land in this county is taken, the balance is open for settlement. In the eastern part of the county a large and prosperous settlement of Bohemians are located. These settlers have opened up splendid farms and developed the agricultural resources of that part of Bon Homme county, proving that our soil is equal to any part of the Territory; and while they have materiallyincreased their own personal wealth, they have added in a similar manner to the wealth and prosperity of the whole community.

Respectively,

H. P. C.

SCOTLAND, BON HOMME COUNTY, D. T.,
NOVEMBER 25th, 1872.

Commissioner of Immigration:—

SIR:—Scotland, twenty-five miles northwest of Yankton, in the northeast corner of the county, on Dawson Creek, is surrounded by agricultural lands of the very best quality. It is on the old military road leading from Yankton to old Fort James, at Rockport. This place was settled by Gen. C. T. Campbell in the summer of 1871, and a post-office established, and Chas. E. Sanborn appointed Postmaster.. A flourishing settlement of American Canadians has settled around this place, which is the junction of the survey of the Winona and St. Peter Railroad with the Dakota Central. Regular mail and express stages run by this place to Milltown, Rockport, and Firesteel. This section of country is second to none in the Northwest in wheat growing. Good lands, still vacant waiting for the industrious settler, are to be had along the stage road in close proximity to the small post-office towns up the Dakota River Valley. Let all desiring choice homesteads remember that "First come, first served," is the motto in selecting lands at the west.

Respectfully,

C.

PLEASANT HILL, BON HOMME COUNTY, D. T.,
NOVEMBER 25th, 1872.

To James S. Foster, Commissioner of Immigration:—

SIR:—I live on the most southern point of land in Bon

Homme county, opposite the town of Niobrara in Nebraska, and one mile from the Missouri River, and two miles and a half below the mouth of the Running Water. My farm is on the upland prairie. I took this claim two years ago the first of next month. That winter I built a house on it and moved into it the first of March, 1871. That spring and summer I broke about ten acres, planted sugar-cane and corn; both done well, some of the ears of corn weighing one pound each. I made my garden on the sod, and had splendid potatoes, peas, beans, onions, lettuce, pepper-grass, carrots, beets, radishes, pumpkins, squashes and parsnips, and more melons and cucumbers than we knew what to do with. Last summer I sowed some wheat, some on fall plowing, some on spring plowing, and some on prairie sod, broke the last of September last year. That on fall plowing yielded 43 bushels per acre, that on spring plowing 25 bushels, and that on prairie sod 20 bushels to the acre. I cut it so green that people said I would get nothing but straw and bran. I took a grist of it to mill and the miller said I had brought "some of that plagued hard wheat to mill, and he could not grind it." When I went for it the miller said he had no trouble in grinding it, and made me 40 lbs of excellent flour after tolling it. My potatoes this year yielded 150 bushels per acre, corn on the sod from 15 to 35 bushels per acre. The corn was dropped in the furrows and the sod turned over it by the plow. Most of it came up too thick, except in a sink or lake bed where the sod was too tough for the corn to come up through, and there it came up very scattering. June 20th, I re-planted it, putting 3 grains in a hill, and it was the best corn I had, some of the ears weighing a pound. I sowed flax and it did well—did not rust. From one quart of seed sowed the 9th of May, I got one and a half bushels of seed. This last summer we had a good garden, the best and earliest we ever raised, (and we formerly lived in southern Iowa.) We had radishes, lettuce and pepper-grass, May 1st. On the tenth of May we had green peas in abundance; 15th of May wild gooseberries without prickers, that are as large as an ounce ball. Wild strawberries were not very plenty, but ripened from 1st to 10th of June. We had new potatoes by 20th of June; they were planted early. I set tame gooseberries and currants which bore this season. I also planted about one hundred apple,

cherry and plum trees that grew well. I also set two dozen Concord grapes, some early and some later. Those set early did well, some of the vines growing two feet this season. I set this year three thousand boxelder and cottonwood trees around my orchard which are also doing well; those set before May 15th all did well, some set later did not thrive as well. I plow my ground from twelve to fourteen inches deep. The ground that produced 43 bushels of wheat per acre was plowed 14 inches deep.

On the river above and below me are large bottom lands covered with heavy timber that can be bought on reasonable terms, and other timber that can be had for nothing in the ravines. There is on the upland a great deal of good grass land, and land that is good for farming purposes. It is nice level land back for miles, "as good as lays out of doors." Our post-office is called "Mineral Springs," which may be the site of some future city. Four miles below here is a steam saw-mill in the heavy timber, and one mile above here is another on the river. Four miles from here is a good water grist-mill with two run of 4 foot French burrs. I think a person looking for a home could get as good a farm for agricultural purposes here as any where in the west. We challenge any locality to beat us in good crops. I am speaking of Bon Homme county west of Emanuel Creek. Wm. Allen raised corn that yielded 75 bushels per acre, and beets that weighed 19 lbs. and cabbages that weighed twenty-four lbs per head, and onions as large as a saucer; squashes too large to handle well, weighing 60 to 70 lbs. Aleke Donahue raised very large turnips of uniform size, and most excellent buckwheat. Henry Brooks, Postmaster at Mineral Springs, raised carrots two feet long, and his potatoes turned out 300 bushels per acre. Many farmers raised corn that gave 40 to 50 bushels per acre.

There has been a large herd of cattle kept here summer and winter for the last two years, without any fodder in winter Some were Texas cattle and some were native stock. They were quite poor when they came here and ought to have been fed during the winter. Clover and timothy have been tried here and found to grow well.

Truly Yours,

SAMUEL HOYT.

BROOKINGS COUNTY.

MEDARY, BROOKINGS COUNTY, D. T.
November 17th, 1872.

MR. J. S. FOSTER:

DEAR SIR:—Noticing in the YANKTON PRESS that you were getting up an Immigration Document and wanted to hear from all parts of Dakota, I will try and tell you something of this county. Brookings county lays north of Minnehaha county and extends as far north as the line between Townships 112 and 113. The Big Sioux river runs through the connty from north to south. There is considerable timber on the Sioux river and its bottom lands are from one to four miles wide with a rich black soil and a heavy growth of of different kinds of grass—mostly blue joint. Good water is obtained by digging from 8 to 15 feet. Besides the timber on the Sioux river there are large bodies of timber on Titanka Lake, Lake Hendricks and Oak Lake, all in this county. The land around these lakes is hilly but good. The timber on the lakes is nearly all taken by settlers. In fact the timber in this section is nearly all taken. but the best farming land in the county is yet unclaimed. Medary creek and Deer creek a tributary of Medary creek are both clear running streams with broad rich bottom-lands, covered with a splendid growth of bluejoint grass. The road from Medary to Lake Hendricks runs up Medary Valley. The most of this valley is untaken. The settlements only extending about 5 miles up the creek from the town of Medary. The uplands are nearly equal to the bottom lands in every respect but convenience to water, there being a good soil nearly two feet deep over a good part of the county.

Yours Truly,

ALBERT B. PETTIJOHN

MEDARY, November 20th, 1872.

Medary is the county seat of Brookings county. It is centrally located in the county, and in a belt of timber on the

Big Sioux river, which contains over twelve hundred acres The river at this place affords a good water power, which will be improved early next summer by a saw mill being put in operation. On the townsite of Medary, there is now, one store, one hotel, one real estate office, and two dwelling houses. The necessary subscriptions have been raised for a church and school house which will be erected early in the spring. Medary creek which flows in a southwesterly direction empties its waters in the Sioux river about two miles below the town. This is one of the most beautiful fast running clear water streams, that may be found in the prairies of Dakota. Its bottom lands which are extensive, affording fine hay and pasture

H. N URMY.

CLAY COUNTY.

VERMILLION, CLAY COUNTY,
November 30th, 1872.

Commissioner of Immigration:

DEAR SIR:- Vermillion desires a place in the emigration pamphlet of 1872. The town is situated on the north bank of the Missouri river at the junction of the Vermillion with the Missouri. The town is partly on the bottom land along the river and partly upon the bench land which is thirty to fifty feet higher than the bottoms and affords a beautiful view of the valley up and down the Missouri, also of the Vermillion valley which comes down from the north. The Dakota Southern railroad passes along at the foot of the bench, and connects Vermillion with Sioux City, 35 miles east, and Yankton 30 miles west of this place. The town is located in a rich section of country, which with the valley of the Vermillion river is tributary to it, and has a population of about eight hundred. It is the county seat of Clay county and the

seat of the United States District Court for the first Judicial District of Dakota. It has also a United States Land Office. The Territorial University is located at this place. The people of Vermillion are industrious and intelligent and are well supplied with churches and schools. Two newspapers are published here *The Dakota Republican*, and *The Clay County Register*. The town at present has but one Bank. Vermillion boasts as good business houses as any town of its size, where goods can be purchased as cheap as at stores in eastern towns. Messes. Lee & Prentis, McKercher & Pettigrew, and Austin & Palmer, are general dealers in merchandise. There are two hardware stores, three drug stores, two wagon shops, three brick yards, two lumber yards, four blacksmith shops, one harness shop, one bakery, two markets, one milliner shop, and three as good hotels as can be found in the Northwest, and about 150 dwellings. There are three resident physicians, and a full complement of surveyors. James McHenry has a new flouring mill, also a saw mill at this place. The country north of Vermillion is level prairie and possesses some of the best cultivated farms in Dakota. North of the table lands just mentioned, the land is gently rolling prairie and thickly settled for twenty miles. The appearance of the country indicates a thrifty class of farmers, while the substantial dwellings which dot the prairies thicker every year, speaks well for the quality of the soil and the energy of Dakota pioneers. Capt. Nelson Miner the proprietor of the town and one largely interested in the prospreity of Vermillion will answer correspondence in relation to this section.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH MASON.

BLOOMINGDALE, DAKOTA TERRITORY,
November 13th, 1872.

JAS. S FOSTER, ESQ.: -Having noticed your invitation in the PRESS, for information from different localities in the Territory, I attempt to give you some items from this, Clay county to aid you in making up your report.

Clay county is the second county west from the Iowa State line, and is bounded on the north by Turner, on the south by

the Missouri river, on the east by Lincoln, and on the west by Yankton county.

VERMILLION,

The principal town has a population of about 500 inhabitants, with twelve stores, including, harness, hardware and drug stores. Three first class hotels are in successful operation. The legal and medical professions are well represented. It is already the center of a large grain trade, and since the advent of the Dakota Southern railroad, is one of the best points for business in Southern Dakota.

BLOOMINGDALE

Ten miles north on the Vermillion river is a live town of about 50 inhabitants. Has a first class hotel, a fine store of general merchandise, a school house, blacksmith shop, and flouring mill, doing a flourishing business. It is destined at no distant day to be an important business point, it being the center of a fine agricultural district. It is the geographical center of the county, and will probably be the future county seat.

LODI.

Five miles farther north is a flourishing town of some 50 inhabitants with hotel, store, and blacksmith shop, a first class flouring mill, &c. Here the United Brethren have built a good church edifice where services are held every sabbath. They are a moral, thrifty, and enterprising class of citizens, and would be an ornament to any community.

Clay county is now compactly settled, and has every element of prosperity. Towns and villages, are springing up as if by magic, and the houses of the settler everywhere dot the prairies, and are fast transforming them into beautiful, pleasant homes.

Very little Government land remains, the settlements having reached far into Turner county. Second class land can be bought from $3.00 to $10.00 dollars per acre. Business men of all classes can find good localities for operating in their calling. Come and see for yourselves, and beconvinced that Clay county has no superior west of the Mississippi as a grain growing country.

Very Respectfully yours,

A. J. MILLS.

LODI, CLAY COUNTY, D. T.,
November 23, 1872.

JAMES S. FOSTER,
Commissioner of Immigration:

SIR:—We wish to have the advantages of this section mentioned in the new pamphlet.

LODI

Is situated sixteen miles up the Vermillion valley from the Missouri river, and twenty-four miles northwest from Yankton. It is located on the west bank of the Vermillion in as good an agricultural country as there is in Clay county. The townsite was located in the fall of 1868 by J. L. Fisher. At that time there was not a house within five miles. In the spring of 1870 Messrs. Rudd & Fisher commenced building their flouring mill and completed it the same fall. It has two run of stone and is as good a mill as can be found in the country. Since that time the country has settled up by good substantial farmers who have opened up large farmes, erected good buildings and planted trees, making this one of the best agricultural sections of the Territory. The village has grown proportionately. We have now a grist mill, two stores, two blacksmith shops, a good hotel, a good church and school house, and other business in proportion. In spring we shall have two more stores, and an agricultural depot. A great number of machines of all kinds were sold here last season. Our railroad prospects are good as Lodi is designated in the charter of the Vermillion Valley Railroad and we stand a chance of getting the McGregor & Yankton Railroad.

Truly Yours,
J. L. FISHER.

HUTCHINSON COUNTY.

JAMES S. FOSTER, ESQ.,
Commissioner of Immigration:

SIR:—Hutchinson county may be said to be in her infancy. Her limits were bounded and county seat established only by

the last legislature, while a permanent organization is just now being effected—officers having been elected in October last. In 1870 the present limits of this county had a population of only thirty-seven individuals, many of them being trancient, while at present, only two years later, her voters alone number fifty, which indicates a populatian of about two hundred. There are now not far from three hundred acres of land under cultivation, and the settlers generally are an enterprising set of people, about two-thirds of whom are American born, the remaining third being of foreign birth, hailing from Germany, Denmark, Norway and Ireland.

The Dakota, the largest river wholly in the Territory, being more than three hundred miles long, courses from northwest to southeast through the county, dividing it into two nearly equal parts. Numerous creeks and brooks also flow from the eastern and western parts and empty into the Dakota River. These, with numerous small lakes and springs, dotted here and there over the prairie, afford an abundant supply of good water for all purposes. It should be said, also, that most of the water here is free from that unpleasant alkaline and mineral taste so much complained of in the west; and that the purity and rarifaction of the atmosphere, combined with the good, wholsome water, place the climate beyond the reach of malarial diseases, and act almost as a specific for diseases of the throat and lungs, as well as nasal catarrh.

This is saying very much for a particular locality, but we have the facts as proof of the statements. Without occupying unnecessary space by giving names and address, we will simply say that there are parties here laboring daily upon their farms and enjoying apparent good health, who, about six or eight months ago, as weakly and languishing invalids, left the east in search of a place where they could either improve their condition, or die easier for having made the attempt to improve it There are no swamp lands in the county; hence the remarkable freedom from those malarious exhalations which have been the scourge of pioneer immigration.

From observations made at Maxwell City during the past summer, it was ascertained that the mean summer temperature is about the same as that of central Ohio, or 71 4 deg. Fah. These and other observations made at different places put the question beyond a doubt that the isothermal lines in

passing westward have a remarkable tendency northward, and that as far as temperature is concerned we are here, several hundred miles south—so to speak—in summer, than Milwaukee, Wisconsin, while both are on the same standard parallel.

The counties along the Missouri river were naturally the first to settle up, as that river has heretofore been the only source of communication with the outside world; but as railroads are now coming to us they begin a new era along the route through which they pass, and Hutchinson county is dedidedly fortunate in being one of the favored ones in this respect. Wicker, Meckling & Co. of Chicago, the eminent railroad builders who are at work upon the Dakota Southern road, and under contract to complete it by the first of January, 1873, say in a letter of only a few weeks ago, "Our company has been prevailed on to push another road up the Dakota River as soon as we have this one completed to Yankton, and we give you our word, we intend to build it." This road, in following the river, will pass through the central portion of the county; thence northward to the North Pacific, forming a part of the much-talked-of "Great North and South Railroad," which is to extend from the British Possessions, to Galveston, Texas. Other railroads now building westward through Iowa, also the Springfield and Sioux Falls R. R. are expected to pass through this county, the preliminary survey for the latter having already been made. Therefore, while this county is now only in its infantile state, no one will dispute her flourishing future with a location so favorable, combined with the salubrity of her climate and unrivaled excellence of her soil.

Hutchinson county has no waste land. That which is not providentially covered with water in the shape of rivers, creeks and lakes, is all susceptible of either cultivation or pasturage. Very little can be said of great agricultural achievements in this county as yet, owing to the fact that not much cultivation has been done; but the little that has been done puts the capabilities of the soil beyond a question. The soil is of a rich black vegetable mould, of a sandy nature, making the work of farming attractive and pleasurable, instead of irksome and monotonous. Grain and vegetables all do excellently well; some of the vegetables obtaining a growth almost marvelous. California in the days of her greatest wonders

could not excel the beets, turnips, potatoes and other vegetables of the Dakota River country. Fields of the yellow dent corn, so commonly grown in the eastern corn-growing States, have this year yielded upon ground plowed the second time, an average of from forty to seventy bushels per acre: while the large smooth white variety, called in this vicinity "Squaw Corn," has in some instances yielded sixty bushels upon the sod, and more than a hundred bushels upon subdued land. Undoubtedly the great agricultural crop for the future in this county will, however, be wheat. Within its limits there are 460,800 acres of land, nine-tenths of which for wheat growing is not excelled in the whole Northwest; and, nearly all of this is still free to the homestead settler, or to be had for $1.25 per acre by pre-emption. There is no land yet reserved for railroads, which leaves the settler a freedom of choice almost without restraint.

Small fruits, berries, etc. of every kind succeed beyond expectation, while plums and grapes of a superior quality are found wild in great abundance. A species of wild grape has been found equal in size to the "Delaware," and very much resembling the "Isabella" in color and flavor. It will be several years before apples and peaches come into bearing in this county, although there is little doubt but they will succeed. The hardier kinds of grapes will certainly do well, while it is probable that the "Catawba" will flourish upon our sunny hillsides.

The settler here needs to expend but little time and trouble to keep his table well supplied with game and fish during the greater part of the year, as they are abundant and will be found an item of supply to the larder worthy of respect. Ducks, geese, prairie chickens, sharp-tailed grouse, jack rabbits, etc. are very plentiful; while antelope, elk, black-tailed deer and wild Texan cattle are common. The rivers and creeks are supplied with many kinds of fish, among which are pike, pickerel, sturgeon, catfish, buffalo and whitefish. The whitefish are certainly a dainty, and settlers along the Dakota River show by the numbers salted for winter use, that they are well apprized of their value. The whitefish are said to be peculiar to the Dakota River, at least they are not found in the Missouri. From twenty to fifty of them, weigh-

ing from one to two pounds each, are sometimes caught with a hook in less than an hour.

Timber is not plentiful. There is very little any where except on the Dakota River, that being sufficient for present use, but not for the future. The railroads will shortly bring us coal and wood; yet no industrious man will let much time pass before he plants several acres of trees, which, in from five to seven years will supply himself with fuel, besides having some to spare to his new neighbor. Those here now have already begun this necessary work, and will continue it from year to year as means and time will permit. This dearth of timber, however, is not peculiar to this county alone; the whole west—Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, etc.,—all are in the same unfortunate category. As to peat we think it an uncertainty every where in the west, and have enough to do if we deal with facts. In this county we have a plenty of stone for building purposes. There are large beds of blue, white and variegated chalk rock, which, while new from the quarry may be sawed into any shape with a common cross-cut or hand-saw; but when it becomes dry, is hard, durable, and very beautiful. The settlements already begun are, Maxwell City, Red Earth and Milltown, although occasional settlers may be found along the river beyond the northern limits of the county. Maxwell City, situated on the west bank of the Dakota River, is the county seat—has a post-office, a flouring mill in course of erection, and a town is surveyed and laid out which is expected to be of considerable importance as the population of the county increases. A colony from northern Ohio is settling about this town, which will receive many new accessions the coming spring.

At Milltown there is a post office, and a good place for a mill, as well as for building a town; but like all other portions of the county, it needs people to make it very populous.

Particular information in regard to this county may be obtained by addressing the undersigned, or John E. Maxwell, both at Maxwell City, or H. H. Nichols at Milltown, who will endeavor to give all information promptly, and with unbiased judgment.

Spring is undoubtedly the best time for parties having little means, to immigrate, as a good crop of vegetables will soon

lessen their expenses. Parties who came here last spring have raised garden and field crops sufficient to carry them through the winter.

Respectfully, &c.,

A. SHERIDAN JONES.

MAXWELL CITY, November 28th, 1872.

MAXWELL CITY, Nov. 20th, 1872.

To the Commissioner of Immigration for Dakota:

Hutchinson county is bounded on the north by Hanson county, on the east by Turner, on the south by Yankton and Bon Homme, and on the west by Charles Mix, and claims as high a rank as an agricultural county as any in the Northwest. The beautiful valley of the Dakota River averaging from one to two miles wide, meanders through the county its entire length of thirty-six miles The river has sufficient fall to afford numerous mill powers with a large quantity of water, giving to these mills unlimited power. The river abounds in fish of several varieties, among which are pike, catfish, carp. buffalo, whitefish, etc.

I will venture to say that there is not one acre of untillable land in the whole county. The soil is of the best kind of fertile loam, and in the valleys it is inexhaustible, of which large yields of garden produce and corn bears unmistakable evidence. No larger or finer beets, cabbages and other vegetables can be raised. From five and one half bushels of pototoes planted last year, I housed for winter use five wagon loads and a half of excellent potatoes. The same year my corn yielded a little over 100 bushels per acre. It was of the Ree or Squaw variety. The present season has not been quite so favorable to corn, but wheat and oats have done remarkably well. The first sod was broken and the first settlement was made in 1870, and as we were compelled to plant on the sod our crops did not yield largely, as the season was unfavorable.

Small grain is mostly sowed on the bench land, and has been very successful. Some heavy crops of corn have been raised on the bottom lands, but I have yet to learn that they have done any better than the bench or table lands in the pro

duction of cereals. There is the choicest prairie land in great abundance, extending back from the river, supplied with innumerable small lakes pretty evenly distributed, around many of which there is some timber Timber of course is scarce because it is destroyed annually by the prairie fires. Timber is mostly confined to the valleys of the rivers and borders of streams where it is partially protected from fires. Wolf and Red Earth creeks have considerable timber on them. There is also much timber in the ravines extending from the Dakota River up on the table lands. Limestone, chalk and granite are abundant throughout the county. At Rockport, just north of the county line, in Hanson county, is an excellent quarry of superior building stone. No better clay exists for making brick than can be found here. Good building sand is also found in great abundance. Coal has been picked up a few miles above this place, and coal slates have been found in several localities. Peat is also found here but not with any very great depth.

To stock raisers the Dakota river valley offers excellent inducements. The nutritious grasses here, so abundant, furnish plenty of hay and pasture, often yielding four tons per acre. I speak from experience when I say that very fat cattle have been butchered here, fattened upon grass alone. Horses and cattle thrive here and are remarkably free from disease. Wild fruit is abundant where the annual fires can be kept from the trees and bushes. Wild grapes, plums and cherries give an abundant yield.

The climate compares favorably with that further east. The Winter of '71 and '72 was an unusually severe winter here and elsewhere. I raised several winter calves in open sheds without trouble and lost none, and several of my neighbors did the same. Heifer calves in from eighteen to twenty months drop their calves and make the first season good milch cows, being nearly or quite full grown; such is my experience in stock-raising, and it speaks well for the quality of the grass and the nature of the climate.

No sorghum, tobacco or sweet potatoes, have to my knowledge been raised here, but the extreme warmth and richness of the soil renders it altogether certain that they will thrive here.

Fruit will undoubtedly do well in sheltered places, either along the bluffs or beside the groves of timber. The wild hop looks as good as those generally cultivated in gardens at the east, and serves the same purpose.

At Maxwell City, James McHenry is erecting a fine grist-mill with five run of burrs. The site is well chosen and furnishes eleven feet of fall.

At Milltown the Shearer Brothers are preparing to erect a grist mill. This place is located in the northern portion of the county, on a creek tributary to the Dakota river. The proprietors have an eye to the wants of this great agricultural county, and the trade of the upper Missouri river military posts and agencies.

Your well wisher in a good work,

HENRY MAXWELL, SEN.

HANSON COUNTY.

John Brennan, in his book on the "Condition and Resources of Southern Dakota" says of this part of Dakota:

"Hanson county is the youngest, fairest, and most vigor-"ous and hopeful of the new counties of Dakota. It lies "north of Hutchinson county, in the third tier north from "the Missouri river. The James river flows through it from "north to south, and into this river flow many beautiful "creeks. The principal of these creeks are the Twelve Mile, "Wolf, Enemy, Firesteel and Rock. Their valleys range in "width from half a mile to a mile, and for richness of soil "and surface are unrivalled in the Territory. Lakes, "springs and groves abound around the heads and along the "courses of these streams. A species of granite, red and hard "and useful for building material, enriches the county of "Hanson."

ROCKPORT,

The county seat of Hanson county, is situated on the James river about sixty miles northwest of Yankton. The town is

underlaid by this red granite, which here first presents itself to full view, and rises-- as the ground gradually recedes, from the high table-land on which the town is located, toward the river--from ten to fifteen feet above the surface, resembling at a distance the fallen walls of a once great city. It has been estimated that enough of this stone lies here, exposed to full view, to build a city as large as New York. It is so accessible that a railroad track could easily be constructed around the base of this huge mass of stone. Nature has left it in layers varying from four to twenty-four inches in thickness, and from two to forty feet broad. It is now used quite extensively by the settlers in this region for houses, stable s&c, and is found to be a cheaper building material than wood. It must prove in time, a source of wealth to the town, and of great value to Dakota. Rockport is located about midway between Sioux Falls on the east and White River on the west, which line will some day constitute the route of a railroad into the pine lands of the Black Hills. It is made a point of importance on the route of the Dakota Grand Trunk Railway. It now has two weekly mail lines, although scarcely a year old. Its surrounding advantages and favorable location has gained it considerable notoriety.

FIRESTELL, Nov 18, 1872.

HON. JAS. S. FOSTER:

SIR:—This part of the Territory is but little known as yet, but has only to be known to be appreciated and settled. Firesteel, in Hanson county is situated on the James, at the mouth of Firesteel creek. It is 75 miles north of Yankton, 60 miles west of Sioux Falls, and sixty northeast from Springfield, and sixty-five east from Fort Thompson. Its first settlers were H. C. Green and J Head, who made their claims in June, 1871. Very little actual improvement was done until the spring of 1872. It now numbers thirty inhabitants with many more coming in the spring. A post office was established in March 1872 There are four mail routes here, but service is had on only one at present. H. C. Green, contractor, carries the mail twice each week from Springfield, D. T to this place. The valley of the James averages about a mile in width and that of Firesteel creek about half a mile. There are five valleys of

from quarter to half mile in width within a radius of five miles from this place, each valley having a stream of running water in it. The soil equals any part of Dakota. There is an easy grade from the bottom or valley land to the upland, the ridge of the hills being mostly tillable. The bottom lands in a state of nature are covered with luxuriant red-top and blue-joint grass, yielding two or three tons per acre. Of timber there is sufficient quantity for a large settlement for fuel and farm purposes. By keeping out the annual fires which destroys all young timber there would soon be an excess. There are several good mill sites, both on the Dakota river and on the creek that are only waiting the skill of man to turn them to good account.

Of water there is an unlimited supply for all purposes. There is a great many springs in this vicinity, two of which are remarkably large and fine, one of which is a mineral spring. Of building stone there is an abundance, consisting of red granite, Lime stone (of which there is a large quarry at Firesteel), and chalk stone. Game can be had in unlimited quantities. Antelope, elk, geese, ducks, chickens and water-fowl abound on the prairies and in the ravines, and around the lakes and streams, while in the creeks and rivers can be found fish of many kinds. We shall have a school house and church privileges in the spring, from which we are at present debarred.

All that is needed here is to have settlers come in and take advantage of the vast resources that nature has placed before us. There is a mine of wealth here for all who will industriously and perseveringly work.

Respectfully,

H. C. GREENE.

ROCKPORT

On the Dakota river near the site of old Fort James, is a beautifully located town and possesses many natural advantages.

The best building stone in the northwest is found here in large quarry's. Excellent springs also abound, and considerable timber is found here on the Dakota river. Frank B. Foster and family settled here in 1871; since which time a postoffice has been established, a store opened, and a regular

mail route and express line with commodious coaches runs from Yankton to Rockport, passing mostly along the beautiful valley of the Dakota river, which is rapidly settling up. The next two years will find the Dakota Central Railroad running up this valley and opening up its resources.

LINCOLN COUNTY.

CANTON, LINCOLN COUNTY, D. T.,
November 25th, 1872.

HON. JAMES S. FOSTER,

Commissioner of Immigration:

SIR—Being requested by many, it becomes my duty to send you a few items in regard to our little spot here in the Sioux Valley, hoping more competent pens have already sent their more lengthy and better written articles on the subject. Our county has this last year improved considerably, both in population and wealth; also the advancement in business, in mercantile, as well as in other branches of business. Our schools are more numerous and improving.

In 1871, the assessment of this county amounted to about $83,000; in 1872, $150,000, and the increase of 1873 will undoubtedly bring it to $250,000, valuable property; and has prospects of increasing for many years to come, as our facilities for immigrants are second to none in the Territory, having a good supply of timber along the Big Sioux river, which can be bought for $20 to $75 per acre, with numerous streams running through the land, emptying their clear waters into the Big Sioux. We have two grist mills, one on the Sioux at the village of Beloit—there being also a saw mill at that place—and the other grist mill now being erected at Fairview, eight miles below Canton, built by Mr. Sargent, which will be in running order about the middle of December.

In the fall of 1873 we hope to be tied to the outer world by the Sioux City & Pembina Railroad, which is to run up the beautiful valley of the Sioux river. We have yet about half of our county unsettled, and land can be found vacant within

8 miles of the Sioux river. Second handed land can be bought for $4 to $20 per acre according to the amount of improvement on the same. Our beautiful village of Canton is improving fast. We having four stores dealing in general merchandise; one hardware store; one restaurant; one saloon; three hotels; one blacksmith shop; two law offices doing general land business, and one lumber dealer, which constitutes our general business men, besides postoffice and county offices. Wheat yielded about 20 bushel per acre; oats 35; corn 50 bushel, potatoes in abundance, which can be seen from the fact that they are bought for 12½ to 15 cts. per bushel.

Our markét this fall has been as follows: wheat, 80 cents; oats, 25; corn, 30; butter, 18 to 25; hay about $3 per ton; wood, $5 per cord. Wages ranging from $15 to $30 per month. Carpenters, $1.50 to $2.50 per day and board. Board at $3.00 to $4.00 per week. A good industrious shoemaker, and tailor and clothing man would find a profitable business here, and we have none yet.

Our county officers are John Falde, Register of Deeds; J. Q. Fitzgerald, Probate Judge; I. N. Menor, Sheriff; B. S. Gillespie, County Attorney; W. W. Fowler, County Superintendent of Schools; T. M. Sargent, A. L. Arneson and Joseph Warner, Commissioners; John Falde, Postmaster; Henry B. Donaldson, Deputy, &c.

I am, Yours Truly,
JOHN FALDE.

SIOUX VALLEY, Nov. 28, 1872.

MR. FOSTER:

For the benefit of those who may wish to immigrate to the section of Dakota, included in the Big Sioux valley, and embracing Union, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Brookings and Deuel counties, I will write a few words, giving a statement of the resources of this valley.

The climate is superior to that farther east, in the same degree of latitude, for the reason that the atmosphere is dryer, and the people here are not liable to colds and asthmas and lung complaints, that prevail at the East. This country is free from malarious diseases, because we have no marshes or overflowed lands.

The soil is a light vegetable mould, mixed with sand and gravel to some extent, on the river bottoms, rendering it easy of cultivation, and very productive. We can raise more bushels of small grain to the acre than is produced in the Mississippi valley, and it weighs more pounds to the bushel. Vegetables of all kinds do well, and yield largely. Wheat gave from 20 to 35 bushels per acre, the past season, notwithstanding the damages done by a severe hail-storm in the middle of harvest.

Timber is scarce, ours being decidedly a prairie country, with the exception of numerous groves, skirting the rivers. Cottonwood is the most common kind of wood; but walnut, oak, ash and elm are found. There is much timber in Lincoln county in gulches, which is not seen by the traveler.

The timber of Brookings and Minnehaha counties is more immediately on the river bottoms. The Big Sioux river from Sioux Falls to Dell Rapids, 20 miles, is skirted with beautiful groves of timber. The bottom lands stretch back from one to two miles, covered with blue joint grass, of the rankest growth.

Above Dell Rapids, the timber is more scarce; but the soil continues to be of the very best quality. Six miles before reaching Flandreau, the river is bordered with large groves of timber, extending eight or ten miles. Flandreau is twenty miles from Dell Rapids, and is in the lower part of Brookings county. This county is one of the finest portions of the Territory. From Flandreau, the road leaves the river and passes over the uplands, which give unmistakable evidence of a rich and deep soil. Six or eight miles before reaching Medary, the county seat of Brookings county, the road again follows the bottoms in full view of the Medary timber, stretching along up the river for twelve miles, being the largest body of timber on the Big Sioux river.

Mill privileges or water powers are plenty, being found in great abundance from one end to the other of this noble stream. Fish of all kinds abound in all our lakes and rivers.

Eden, in the southern portion of Lincoln county, is one of the most beautiful places in the valley.

Canton, the county seat, is by far the largest town, and contains a printing office, four dry goods and grocery stores, one

hardware, two hotels, a post office, a church, and a school house.

The Congregationalists have erected a church and two other denominations contemplate building next season.

Sioux Falls, in Minnehaha county, is the largest town in the Sioux valley. It is only three years old, and contains two hotels, one fine church, five or six stores, one printing office, and one grist mill, (nearly completed) and several elegant private residences.

Dell Rapids, in the northern part of Minnehaha county, has a hotel, a saw mill, a store and a newspaper.

Flandreau, in the southern portion of Brookings county, is situated on the Big Sioux, in a thriving settlement.

Medary is the county seat of Brookings county, and is situated near the center of the county, and has one store, one excellent hotel, and a resident physician.

Stone, for building purposes, are not as plenty as could be desired, but enough can be obtained for ordinary purposes.

Chalk rock is found near Canton, and when the quarry is opened, will no doubt give an abundant supply. It is easy to work, therefore makes cheaper walls than brick.

Mr. Peterson, near Canton, in digging for water, discovered a bed of slate that burns almost equal to coal; and on penetrating still deeper, discovered coal. If coal could be found in considerable quantity, it would be hailed with joy by the people of Dakota, as the dawn of an era of cheap fuel.

Truly Yours,

J. GEHON.

MINNEHAHA COUNTY.

SIOUX FALLS, Dec. 10, 1872.

HON. J. S. FOSTER,

Commissioner of Immigration:

SIR:—In response to your circular of Oct. 15, 1872, I have the honor to submit the following communication in regard

to that part of the Big Sioux valley lying adjacent to the Falls.

This part of the Territory has been filling up with the most gratifying rapidity during the past summer, with a population of energy and thrift, which will be glad to welcome to the fertile lands still vacant, all others who have an interest in building up good society and homes of independence and comfort. Not believing in the old saying that "ignorance is bliss," the settlers of the county manifest an interest in

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES,

which promises education and culture to those who may wish to avail themselves of the natural advantages of this part of the valley. In almost every township, efforts are now being made to establish schools and afford places of worship. Aside from this, the inhabitants show their public spirit by the laying out of highways and making liberal provisions for roads and bridges.

SIOUX FALLS,

The county seat of Minnehaha county is a village of two years growth, and numbers among its places of business, three stores with general stocks of merchandise, three hotels, two blacksmith shops, one harness shop, one daguerrean gallery, two tin shops, three land agencies, one furniture store, two physicians, one printing office, one church, and enough legal talent to furnish ample assistance to the people in their efforts to secure "equal rights to all."

THE WATER POWER

Here is one of the finest on the continent, the river having a descent of about 120 feet in a short distance with firm banks to give solidity and safety to the buildings located near the stream. One grist mill with two run of stones, will be in operation in a few weeks, and another of stone and much larger will be erected next summer, so that hauling grain from 25 to 75 miles to mill, is, with this place, a thing of the past. The buildings are all neat in apperarance, and of an unusual ly good class for a place so new.

THE MAIL FACILITIES

Are all that could be desired, this being a point of five distinct lines of stages with an eastern mail tri-weekly from Sioux City. Within a distance of twenty miles on the river,

the settled portion, there are four post offices, which give complete accommodation to the residents.

TIMBER

Here, as in most places in the West, is not abundant, but there is enough to supply the country with fuel until such time as coal will be brought in by the rapidly approaching

RAILROADS.

The Southern Minnesota R. R., when complete will give us the shortest eastern route.

The Yankton and Sioux Falls R. R. company is organized with a capital of $1,000,000 and officered by men of energy and good business capacity, and who are personally interested in seeing the completion of the enterprise.

The Sioux City and Pembina R. R., will be the thoroughfare of travel connecting the Northern Pacific and U. P. R. R. and promises a speedy construction, the grade from Sioux City toward Sioux Falls being nearly completed for the first twenty-five miles.

BUILDING STONE

Of fine quality exists in immense quantities at the Falls and at numerous points on the river above. Limestone is plentiful enough to meet all demands.

THE SOIL

Is as good as in the other parts of the Territory which is all that needs to be said in regard to its fertility. "Tickle it with a hoe and it will laugh with a harvest" may very appropriately be applied to this part of the West. Energy and economy are all that are necessary to give the immigrant sure and speedy independence.

Very Respectfully,

Your Obd't. Servt.

NEWTON CLARK.

DELL RAPIDS, November 18th, 1872.

HON. JAMES S. FOSTER,

Commissioner of Immigration:

DEAR SIR:—Having noticed your advertisement requesting the sending in of items, descriptions of settlements and towns

in different parts of the Territory, and being interested in the growth and development of the same, we send you a brief description of our location. Our point is located on the Big Sioux at or near the center of Minnehaha county, D. T., at a point known previous to settlement, as "Dell Rapids." Our settlement commenced about August 1st, 1871, and is composed almost entirely of eastern American people, a society equal to any eastern community in intelligence. The settlement has progressed rapidly. In the summer of '72 two church organizations were effected, to-wit: One Baptist and one Presbyterian, with two others, Congregational and Methodist, which propose organization next season. A Sabbath School of some fifty scholars was organized in June, 1872. We have a beautiful town site laid out and recorded, named "Dell Rapids." Our town improvements are not large as our town plat has but recently been surveyed and recorded. Our improvements to date are—one good store, one hotel, one wagon shop, one printing office—"*The Dell Rapids Journal*,"—one saw-mill in operation on a water power only second in importance in the Territory, capable of affording a head and fall of 15 to 18 feet; having banks and bottom of solid rock, for security, and cheapness of improvement it has no superior. A flouring mill is already in course of construction. A post-office has been established, also two mail routes terminating here, and one passing through the place up the valley. We have at this point inexhaustible quarries of good building stone, and owing to their scarcity at most other points they will doubtles be an article of shipment to adjacent points as soon as railroad communication is had. The country is well watered with good springs of excellent water, and where wells are required good water is obtained at a depth of 12 to 20 feet. Our soil for richness and beauty has no superior in the Territory, and is unsurpassed by any in the west. Our wheat crop for this year (1872) has yielded from 25 to 37 bushels of excellent wheat. Yellow dent corn planted on sod has produced in quantity and quality, nearly, if not quite, equal to old land in Iowa. Potatoes and all garden vegetables are produced in great abundance and of superior quality. Government land of excellent quality and well located is obtainable near this point, which affords very many conveniences not found elsewhere. Parties desiring to locate colonies will do well to examine this section before lo-

cating. Town lots for the present will be donated to parties wishing to engage in business or for dwellings. The central position of Dell Rapids, commanding as it does a large section of country, and being on the line of two railroads now under construction, it is not too much we think, to claim for it, in the near future, a prominent point. The beautiful natural scenery of Dell Rapids, and other rock formations, of which we have not time and space to give a detailed description at this time, have already attracted the attention of tourists and pleasure seekers, which will from year to year become a pleasant resort for themselves.

Hoping your forth-coming pamphlet will so set forth the condition and desirableness of Dakota, that thousands will be attracted to our rich and productive lands, we have the honor, etc, of subscribing ourselves,

F. C. RICE
PETER MORSE.

VALLEY SPRINGS,

Minnehaha county, Dakota, is situated in townships 101 and 102, in the extreme eastern part of the county, and about 15 miles northeast from Sioux Falls, the county seat.

Settlement was commenced here in June of 1872, by Messrs. Wood and Dunham from Tomkins county, N. Y., and as early as December following, bears striking evidence of enterprise and public spirit, in its neat frame dwellings and ample accommodations for the valuable stock being introduced from the famous herd of Short Horns of Hon. Ezra Cornell of Ithaca, N. Y., and from points nearer home. And a fine highway bridge, 36 feet in length—the first substantial bridge structure in the county—here spanning Beaver Creek. The general characteristic of surface is fine rolling prairie, rising in gentle slopes from the banks and meadows of Beaver Creek, and stretching away southeasterly some three to five miles to the divide, and to the north and west still farther distant, to the water shed of the Split Rock, a fine valley of 8 or 10 miles breadth, watered by Beaver Creek and its tributary springs of clear soft water. Beaver Creek, though a comparatively small stream, (yielding from 600 to 1000 gallons per minute at ordinary low water,) is very steady in its flow.

and at its lowest stage gives evidence that its supply is from unfailing springs. At this point its current (were not checked by the Beaver dams) is rapid, having a descent of about 40 feet per mile.

Beaver Meadows comprise a marked feature of this beautiful locality. Hundreds of acres of fine blue-joint meadow lies spread out upon a dry bottom, meandered by Beaver Creek in its tortuous course, at an average of 8 to 10 feet below the level of the meadow surface, and invariably between abrupt banks, and in no case presenting a single rod of marshy ground. Fine quarries of stone are found near here entirely uncovered and of several acres extent, where the best of building stone in cubes of an endless variety of sizes, may readily be wedged off. Good building sand is found in great abundance in the bluffs bordering Beaver Creek. The so can scarcely be surpassed for fertility, being composed of a dark rich mold to the depth of one and a half to three feet, underlaid by a subsoil of several feet of clay, thickly interspersed with particles of marl, lime and magnesia. Unlike the heavy clay subsoils of the country, 30 to 40 miles eastward and thence extending still east of the Mississippi; and far to the south, the subsoil of this locality exhibits wonderful facility in receiving moisture, so that no "sloughs" are found hereabouts; and though no rain may moisten the upper soil for many weeks, the subsoil seems to yield back its moisture in turn, thus guarding vegetation against drouth, to an extent unknown on the heavier subsoils. The springs, from which the place takes the name, are formed near the margin of Beaver Creek and afford a bountiful supply of clear sweet cold soft water, filtered through beds of sand and gravel. The broad valley of Beaver Creek presents a most favorable route, and will, doubtless, within a brief period, be occupied by a railroad leading from some point on the St. Paul and Sioux City R. R., or crossing it, and thence *via* Lu Verne, Minn., and Valley Springs, to Sioux Falls and Yankton.

PEMBINA COUNTY.

FARGO, DAKOTA TERRITORY,
November 8th, 1872.

SIR:—We wish to say a word to the homeless and landless of the Eastern States, descriptive of the Red River Valley, more especially of its agricultural resources, and the advantages it offers, over most any other portion of the great West, to which so many are annually rushing in search of a home; a home they can call all their own a home they can beautify and adorn, until in their old age, they can

"Thank God for rest where none molest,
And none can make afraid,
For peace that sits as plenty's guest,
Beneath the Homestead shade."

Having traveled the length and breadth of the valley on foot and on horseback, we can write with some assurance of its resources.

But to give one who has always lived on the rocky slopes of New England, a correct idea of the beauty and extent of its prairies, the depth and richness of its soil, the variety and superior excellence of its products, and above all of the healthfulness of its climate, would require volumes.

We are like the hard shell Baptist brother, who when trying to describe heaven to a Kentucky audience wound up by saying it was a perfect "Kaintuck" of a place, but from what we know of Kentucky, we should judge the inducements it or any other southern State offer to immigrants are hardly worth mentioning when compared with those offered by the Red River Valley, which in a few years will astonish the world with its greatness and glory.

THE VALLEY.

That portion of the Red River valley south of the National boundary line, may be said to be 200 miles long and 75 miles wide. Through the center separating the State of Minnesota from the Territory of Dakota flows the Red River of the North, which increases rapidly in size from its numerous trib-

taries flowing in from the east and from the west, many of which are nearly as large as the Red River itself.

TIMBER.

The timber of the Red River valley is mostly found along the Red River and its tributaries, the anual fires preventing its growth on the open prairie. The timber belt of the Red River is frequently from 8 to 10 miles wide, consisting principally of oak, ash, elm, cottonwood, maple, bass wood, and box elder, an excellent sugar being made from the sap of the latter tree, while the middle ground between the open prairie and heavy timber is generally covered with a luxuriant growth of hazel, plum, high bush cranberry, current, cherry, raspberry, blueberry, grapevines, &c. This timber is sufficient to supply settlers with fencing and fuel for many years to come, in fact wire for fencing and coal for fuel will be prefered before the timber is exhausted. There are three saw mills in active operation on the Red River while good pine lumber can be obtained on any of the three lines of railroad now completed to the river for twenty dollars per thousand.

WATER.

The water of the Red River, and of its tributaries is pure and healthy, while an inexhaustible supply can be obtained on any quarter section of land by didding or boring.

At Pembina ice cold water, pure as crystal, is obtained by digging a few feet, while flowing wells of the finest water have been obtained by boring on the line of the N. P. R. R.

SOIL.

The soil of the Red River valley is from 2 to 3 feet deep, resting on a clay bed, so hard and compact that the surface holds all the dressing it ever had, and nature gave it its first and last, for no one ever thinks of manuring. If the manure pile gets to be inconvniently large the barn is moved to another site.

And still the soil seems to retain its vitality unimpared and to produce in the greatest abundance. We have seen wheat that would yield from 40 to 50 bushels per acre, growing on ground that had been under cultivation by the H. B. Co., for 70 years, and potatoes that would yield 500 bushels per acre growing on ground that had been under constant cultivation for 50 years, the land in neither case having ever received a

pound of any fertilizing element, except what nature contributed.

These are facts and facts that will apply to any portion of the Red River valley under cultivation, and while the soil is more productive than any we have ever seen elsewhere, the pioneer instead of wearing himself out to clear away the timber and rock, as our fathers in New England did, has but to locate his claim, and go to plowing land where with one span of good horses, he can run his plow beam deep without striking a stone, where his team will keep fat on the native prairie grass, and where the soles of his feet will be stained at every step with the juice of the most delicious strawberry.

PRODUCTS OF THE SOIL.

The products of the soil are extremely varied and include nearly all the fruits and vegetables of the temperate clime.

To be sure we miss as yet the ruddy apple, the golden pear and downy peach, of older settled localities, but have great faith in being able to raise the apple in the greatest abundance, for where wild fruit grows successfully we believe that tame varietie's of the same nature will succeed with a little care.

A few apple trees were planted out on the open prairie in the fall of '71 near Fargo, which stood the severe winter of '71 and '72, without showing any signs of winter killing. This has encouraged M. B. Pinkham to set out a large number on his farm near Fargo, on the Sheyenne river, so we will soon be able to speak from experience of apple culture in the Red River valley.

Of the wild fruits we have first in the season the strawberry, which grows everywhere, this is succeeded by the blueberry and raspberry, the latter of both the large red and yellow varietie's so extensively cultivated east. These are followed by the wild current, the *racmees* being equal in length to those of many cultivated varieties; the current is followed by the autumn fruits, the most important being the plum; of this fruit there are three varieties, the largest of a slight yellowish tinge, frequently measuring 4 inches in circumference. The high bush cranberry, salal berry, wild cherry and thorn apple, also grow in the wildest luxuriance, hundreds of acres of the middle ground before mentioned being frequently covered with the shrubs and bushes loaded to the ground with ripen-

ing fruit. Neither must we forget the wild grape and hazel nut, both of which even at this late day can be gathered in abundance.

In the raising of grain and vegetables, the people of the eastern States are pretty well satisfied already we can beat the world, thanks to the N. P. R. R. Co., who have placed specimens of both on exhibition, at numerous State and county fairs throughout the east during the past fall. These have excited the wonder and admiration of all who have examined them not only on account of their great size, but on account of their superior excellence, the largest vegetables being of the finest texture and sound to the core.

It is a well established fact that both winter and spring wheat will do well even as far north as Winnepeg. We have even examined specimens of spring wheat raised near the mouth of the Assiniboine river that averaged 60 and 65 bushels per acre, while a specimen of spring wheat was placed upon exhibition at the Clay Co., fair, Minnesota, by the U. S. Consul stationed at Fort Garry, which was claimed to have averaged 70 bushels per acre. Winter wheat has been but little tried until within two years, but has invariably proved a good crop. A field of 4 acres raised 12 miles from Fargo on the Sheyenne river, D. T., by a Norwegian gentleman averaged 52 bushels per acre, planted on the raw sod.

As wheat does well it follows, that oats, barley and rye, yield in the same abundant manner. We might give some figures here that would surprise our eastern friends. A field of oats raised near Fort Abercrombie D. T, averaged 105 bushels per acre after the blackbirds had seriously damaged the crop, while a field of barley containing 8 acres raised near Pembina D. T., in the year 1871, averaged 50 bushels per acre. Potatoes frequently yield 200 bushels per acre planted under the sod, that is the seed dropped after the plow and the next furrow turned on top, and we have seen 500 bushels harvested from a single acre of land, that had been for several years under cultivation.

The raising of corn is a question we hardly dare touch upon, for it is generally supposed that we are too far north to think of cultivating any but a small variety known as squaw corn or pop corn, but it is now admitted by all who have had any experience in raising this grain, that any of the early

varieties common to southern Michigan or northern Ohio, Indiana or Illinois, can be raised not only with success but with profit to the raiser. There have been thousands of bushels raised in the valley during the past season, and we have seen fields containing from 6 to 8 acres that would average 60 bushels of ears per acre of the variety known east as 8 rowed corn, while the Johnson Brothers, living on Sec. 20, 3 miles south of Fargo, D. T., raised 8 acres of the variety known as flint corn from which they harvested 810 bushels of corn, the corn being cut off and shocked in order to save fodder two weeks before there was any frost to damage it.

Common white turnips and rota bagas have been sold in Fargo market during the past fall that would weigh 18 pouds each. Cabbage that could not be crowded into a half bushel. Pumpkins and squashes by the wagon load; tomatoes that would measure 15 inches in circumference, and other garden stuff which is as easly raised as in southern N. Y. We have picked watermelons from the vines in the garden of the British custom house, Manitoba, that were fully ripe and of good size, while near by many magnificent cauliflowers were growing, that would put to shame specimens we have seen on exhibition at the Lucas County Fair, Ohio.

Owing to the peculiar composition of the soil of the Red River valley, the chemical matter of which it would take too long to describe, both grain and vegetables mature in a shorter period of time than in many more southern localities. We give but two instances that came under our personal observation. A gentleman living at grand Forks D. T., 100 miles north of Fargo, delayed planting his corn and potatoes until the second day of July. The potatoes were of the early rose variety, the corn of the variety known as evergreen sweet corn. On the 28th of September we were returning to Fargo from Pembina, and called at his place where we were shown specimens of the corn, braided up for seed and potatoes just dug some of which would weigh two pounds each.

MINERALS.

Of the mineral resources of the valley we have little to say. It is seldom we find rich mineral deposits in a good agricultural country, and the Red River valley is no exception to the rule.

Coal in considerable quantities has been discovered on the

Maple river, within 50 miles of Fargo, but we think coal of a better quality can be brought from farther west over the N. P. R. R., and delivered in Fargo at from 4 to 6 dollars per ton.

The clay which is found along the Red River at a depth of from 3 to 4 feet, affords material for manufacturing a very superior quality of brick, 300,000 having just been used in construction the N. P. R. R. round, house now in process of constructing here. In color they are similar to the Milwaukee brick but are far superior for building purposes, being harder and less liable to crumble under intense heat or the combined action of freezing and thawing.

GAME.

Our wild game consists of elk, deer, antelope, bear, coon, beaver, and other fur bearing animals. Geese, swan, brant, ducks, snipe and prairie checkens. The small birds are common. The robin, blue bird, meadow lark, oriole, &c., seeming to be as abundant as among the apple orchards of Ohio, while our streams abound with the finest pickerel together with cat fish, golden eyes, and other fish which are caught in the greatest abundance.

CLIMATE.

Our climate is similar to that of southern Minnesota, which is already well known to be the healthiest in the world. The air is dry here and invigorating, and so clear that it is nothing unusual to see a small house on the prairies while yet 10 or 15 miles away from it. The climate invigorates instead of relaxing and enervating the human system as does the climate of Indiana and Illinois. It sharpens a man's perceptions, opens his eyes, and renders him in every way more vigorous and wide awake than he was before coming here. Neither are the winters such a terror or so much to be dreaded. The fall of snow is light, seldom exceeding two feet and a half, while the air is so dry and pure that the coldest weather is scarcely heeded, and the settler goes about his business as usual. It is only an occasional wind that lifts the snow in billowy waves, driving it here and there over the prairies, that are unpleasant. Any thing approaching the hurricanes so frequent in Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, that level brick houses and shears the wool from the sheep, are happily

unknown in the Red River Valley. We seldom have a wind that blows with a velocity of 30 miles an hour.

The overflow of the Red River, so much dreaded by the early Selkirk settlers, is a thing of the past. The river has been gradually widening, deepening and straightening its channel. Especially has the channel been deepened by the frequent passage of the steamers Selkirk, International and Dakota, all of which have made regular trips during the greater part of the past summer between Fargo and Garry. The question may be asked, Why has not this country, so rich in agricultural resources, been developed before. In the first place people are just beginning to find out there is some truth in the fabulous tales told by Coffin and others about the fertility of our soil, the beauty of our prairies, and the healthfulness of our climate. In the next place there never has been any inducement for the farmer to raise more than sufficient to supply his own wants, as there was not sale for the surplus owing to the difficulty of transporting it to the outside world. This difficulty has been happily obviated by the construction of the N. P. R. R. through Fargo and westward to the Missouri, giving us connection with Duluth. The St. Paul & N. P. R. R. connecting Richville, D. T., with St. Paul and the Pembina Branch of the N. P. R. R., connecting Pembina, D. T., with Duluth. With these three roads now completed and in running order there is an opportunity for shipping any surplus produce that may be raised in the valley of the Red River of the North or its tributaries, and at prices that will compare favorably with prices paid for similar products in southern Minnesota or Wisconsin. To the homeless and landless of the crowded east, we say come; to the laboring man working day after day for a mere pittance, the servant of some more fortunate land owner, we say come to the valley of the Red River, where you can be a man among men; to the tenant who can hardly pay his yearly rent, we say come and build up a pleasant home for yourself and little ones.

The Red River Valley is destined at no distant day to be the granery of the New England States. The variety of its products and the production of its soil is already beginning to startle the world, while the whistle of the locomotive proclaims for the settler a bright and glorious future.

Very Respectfully,

GORDON J. KEENEY.

Fargo, Pembina County, D. T.

In the month of August 1871, the writer of this article drove over the present site of Fargo in a half-breed cart, drawn by a half breed pony which jogged lazyly along, now and then stopping to catch a bite of grass, or to allow its driver to shoot a prairie chicken as they would occassionally take wing, frightened by the unusual disturbance.

Only one small log house was in sight, standing in the edge of the timber lining the bank of the Red River, while far to the west the eye searched the rolling prairie in vain for any sign of civilization, but in the latter part of September the line of the N. P. R. R., was located through the present town site and west to the Missouri, when at once Fargo began to struggle into existence. Though laboring under many disadvantages, which are now happily removed the town made considerable progress during the following winter in size and population, and during the past summer has twice doubled its population. 300 votes having been polled in the Fargo precinct alone at the Territorial election held on the 8th of October, 1871. Here are being built the numerous R. R. buildings for the Dakota division of the N. P. R. R., as this is the begining of the Dakota Div. and head quarters for the R.. R officers, engineers and employees. A large Div. hotel costing the Co., 50,000 dollars has just been completed, while the Div. round house is under way which when completed will cost the Co., sixty thousand dollars, to be followed by extensive machine shops, freight and passenger depots &c.

Four stores and two hotels besides the Div. hotel are doing a good business, while numerous other substantial buildings have been completed or are under procress of construction Three steamers have made regular trips between Fargo and Garry during the greater part of the past summer while a daily line of stages connects the town with Breckenridge the termination of the St. Paul and N. P. R. R. in Minnesota Surrounded by a good agricultural country, productive of nearly all the grains and vegetables of the temperate clime, Fargo cannot fail to increase in size and population until it becomes the St. Paul of the new northwest.

J.

PEMBINA, DAKOTA TERRITORY,
November 18th 1872

JAMES S. FOSTER,

Commissioner of Immigration:

DEAR SIR:—Having been informed through your circulars, that you intend to issue your publication, shortly after December 1st, I hasten to give you some information concerning our section of Dakota; fearing that abler heads may forget to do so, and consequently, our portion of the country go unnoticed in your work. I shall endeavor to give only facts, and such as I know to be facts; and I think they are sufficient, without any fancy pen sketches to secure to northeast Dakota, a large immigration as soon as they become known and credited.

When I left southern Minnesota, (where I have resided for twelve years), to try my luck in the very northern limits of the United States, at Pembina, I thought I was going not only beyond nearly all civilization, but so far north that it would never reach me; only so far, as it is found among trappers, and hunters. Notwithstanding, that I had heard that this was a great wheat growing country, and had noticed that the Isothermal lines as marked on the maps, placed this place in an enviable position with St. Paul, Minnesota; yet I could not conceive that, in this latitude, the season could be sufficiently long for practical farming operations.

Very different indeed, is really the case as I find by actual experience. I made the journey from Ft. Abercrombie, a distance of over 200 miles, during the month of February, 1871, that being the coldest, most unpleasant, month of the winter I thought when starting, that I should be very fortunate did I not get frosted badly before arriving at my journey's end; as my conveyance was merely an open, one horse sleigh, drawn by a half starved Indian pony.

I was accompanied by one other young man, a dentist who, although unaccustomed to such experiences, fought his way through the snow and cold, to good advantage, and, although we were nine days making the trip and were compelled to "camp out" several nights yet we, did not suffer greatly with the cold. Besides being badly fatigued we sustained no injury, save perhaps a very little skin from the end of our noses.

The air in this latitude is dry and bracing, and I think one feels the cold no more here, with the mercury twenty degrees below zero, than they do five hundred miles south, at zero. At the time of which I write, there was but two stopping places between this place and Georgetown, a distance of over 150 miles, now there is a stage coach, running three times each week over this route with stage stations every twelve or fifteen miles; while all along the distance are numerous settlements with little towns springing up in choice locations, along the river.

Although Pembina has long held its name and place upon maps, it was not until the spring after I arrived here, that it was surveyed or "laid out" as a town site. In fact its age may be dated from 1871. There was very little land in cultivation here and during that year I could form from actual observation but an indifferent estimate of this as an agricultural country. The spring and summer seasons were very dry, and crops such as were sown or planted gave no very favorable prospects, yet when time for gathering came it was surprising to see how they "turned out." Potatoes, and in fact all other vegetables, were more than an ordinary crop, according to my farming experience. The soil is a rich mellow loam, very deep, and of such a nature that it is not severely affected by dry weather.

My observations, during that season, satisfied me that this would prove a good farming country. This last season has more fully satisfied me. Now I have no hesitation in pronouncing it, in my opinion, one of the best for small grain and vegetables in the U. S.; certainly as good as any east of the Pacific slope. This season has brought the finest crops I ever saw, such as wheat, oats, barley and vegetables of all kinds, raised in the north. Wheat has in many instances yielded from twenty-five to thirty, and even forty bushels per acre, and that of No. 1, spring wheat, large plump grain; in every way superior to that raised in more southern latitudes. The dryness of the atmosphere, even though the season may be a wet one, prevents anything like rust on the straw, so common farther south, which is sure to shrivel the grain, and often, totaly destroy the crops.

Vegetables too, have grown beautifully here. In fact, I think better seldom are to be seen any where Potatoes,

weighing two and two and a half pounds each, were common, with sometimes those weighing three to three and a half pounds each. A bushel of potatoes have frequently been taken from 6 hills. The potatoes on patches of one quarter of an acre are estimated to have weighed one pound each.

Turnips, ruta bagas, carrots, pumpkins, squashes, tomatoes, and in fact nearly all vegetables usually raised in the north, are a famous crop here. Although so far north, up to the forty-ninth parallel, our first frost this fall came on the night of the 20th of September, therefore there was abundant time for any of the above mentioned vegetables to fully mature, and for such I think this section second to none.

I can see no material difference between the length of the summer seasons here, and in southern Minn. Our autumns are delightful, usually very little rain, and generally fine pleasant weather, until late in the season, when our snows perhaps begin to fall, but it is said that often there is no sleighing until Christmas. Until the snow comes we have beautiful wagoning; as we have no mud so late, and the roads are hard and smooth. The winters are certainly cold, but a steady, dry cold, and not so unbearable as damp cold winds so common further south.

The water in the streams in our vicinity is very pure and good. There are a number of very good wells in this neighborhood, where the best of water has been reached, at but little expense. There appears to be no trouble in getting water, where persons are anxious to obtain it, to dig for it.

Notwithstanding this is what is termed a prairie country, our portion is quite well timbered, with the best quality of timber, being white oak of a young growth, and very straight and pretty trees, particularly so on the Tongue and Pembina rivers, which unite about three miles from here, and flow into the Red river at this place. On these streams there is, I think, the finest oak I ever saw. All along between these two streams there are fine groves of oak, and farther up, and along the foot of what is called the Pembina mountains, is another very fine belt of timber, so that in the main this portion of country is very well timbered, besides being on the upper portion of those streams, as beautiful in all appearance, as one could wish to see.

One is brought to think, as approaching it from a short

distance, that he is just entering a thickly settled district, as he involuntarily imaginis, that just around the bend, or in yonder grove," there is a fine farm house. In very few places can one find more beautiful locations than in this locality of which I write.

The settlement around Pembina is already quite large for so new a place. In this town at our last election, there were 130 votes cast; besides, there were a number of legal voters who didn't turn out. The settlement continues up the Pembina to St. Joseph, a distance of thirty miles; also along up and down the Red River. The pieces of land already occupied are principally timber; very few prairie claims are taken; and good prairie is yet unclaimed within one mile of our town.

The town of Pembina now consists of three stores, two blacksmith shops, two hotels, one saw mill, and twelve to fifteen dwellings. The United States Custom House, land office and post office, are located here, also the United States District Court; one church, and last but not least, two billiard rooms, which I believe completes the list.

Fort Pembina is located only one mile distant. There are a number of fine buildings, all complete and well finished, for officers and soldiers quarters, which with the addition of barns and other outside buildings, give to the Fort the appearance of quite a fine town. Near the Fort there are two stores and two breweries. The breweries themselves being quite an advance toward civilization.

There has yet been no public school kept here. We hope, however, to have one started this next spring or summer. There are already enough children here to form quite a large school, and the intention now is to get the material ready this winter for building in the spring, for we certainly must have a school here, without fail.

The Red River is navigable during high water, as far up as Breckenridge, the point on the river to which the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad now runs. In a moderate stage of water the steamers run only up to Moorhead, at the crossing of the Northern Pacific Road, and in very low water, only to Frog Point, a distance of about forty miles still below Moorhead. Three good steamboats ran on this stream this season to the above named places, all doing a good freight and pas

senger trade. For a while this fall, after the completion of the Pembina railroad to the Red Lake (a tributary to the Red River,) they ran up that stream a distance of thirty miles by land, to the railroad crossing, as a great portion of the freight came by that route. We have also a telegraph line running along this valley as far north as Fort Garry, which is we consider, quite a "big thing" in a new country. With the stage, steamboat and telegraph lines, all in full blast, we are at once made to feel that we are again in the center of civilization, and not the isolated frontiersmen, many may imagine us to be.

The Pembina Branch of the Northern Pacific Railroad, is graded to within a few miles of here, and early next summer we confidently expect to see the Iron Horse come puffing into Pembina, and Pembina soon grow into fine, perhaps magnificent proportions. Indeed we do consider our advantages remarkable, our prairies rich in soil and very fertile; our timber good; our climate healthy and invigorating; our soil so very productive—what more can be needed to insure its speedy settlement and future prosperity. One thing more is needed, which is a cheap, speedy mode of conveyance. This too we have, not only by steamboat to the already built railroads to the river, but the cars will, themselves, soon be here to carry the immigrant seeking a home in the far northwest, almost to the very piece of land he may desire to make a future home.

And to the farmer what a grand prospect. As soon as he has a surplus of grain on hand, should he not find sale for it at good prices to the northwest of us, in the great Hudson's Bay country, the cars are here to carry it to Duluth, the great northern Chicago, from whence shipments to the east will cost no more than from Chicago east, while from here to Duluth, the cost will be no more than from the northern part of Illinois to Chicago.

The Northern Pacific from Duluth to Red River, runs a large portion of the distance through heavy pine forests, from which pine lumber can be obtained at reasonable rates. This again is a great advantage to those who may make a residence here, as all want buildings at least, and fencing can be procured in this way at a very reasonable rate.

What a glorious prospect for farmers on our broad prai-

ries! What would our forefathers or our father, or even our older brothers have given for such opportunities, such of them as desired to start in a new country?

Where were there ever greater advantages offered? I shall be surprised if persons thinking of emigrating, do not realize this, until it is too late for them to get choice places; and they will have to take what hundreds who come before them have passed by. Will they continue to stay where they have, first, to get in debt for a small piece of land, at large prices, whereon they cannot raise as much, or get so much for what they do raise, as they may here. Here, they may get 160 acres, the almost free gift of the Government, and by industry soon make themselves independent.

"A word to the wise is sufficient," and hoping that I have given none but correct statements, concerning our portion of Dakota,

I am, Very Truly Yours, &c.,
H. R. VAUGHN.

TURNER COUNTY.

SWAN LAKE, DAKOTA TERRITORY,
November 26th, 1872.

HON. J. S. FOSTER,
Commissioner of Immigration:

SIR:—Having noticed your circular asking for information from the different parts of the Territory, I thought I would not let the opportunity pass without saying a few words in regard to Turner county.

Turner county was organized in January, 1871; is bounded on the north by Minnehaha and Hanson counties, on the west by Hutchinson, on the south by Yankton and Clay, and on the east by Lincoln county; is twenty-nine miles north and south, and twenty-four miles east and west. The surface of this county is slightly rolling, except river and creek bottoms which are level, varying in width from one to ten miles, with

a soil of rich, black loam, varying in depth from two to three and a half feet, resting upon clay from ten to twenty-five feet thick. This soil is well adapted for either grain or vegetables, is very easily tilled after the breaking of the sod, which to do to good advantage, requires two yoke of cattle or three horses, either of which will break from one and-a-half to two acres per day, though good farms are started with one span of horses or mules or one yoke of cattle.

Breaking, if done early, will pay all the cost the first season by planting it to corn, it yielding the first season on the sod, with no tilling, from ten to forty bushels per acre, and this leaves the ground in better condition for the next year, as it greatly assists in decaying the sod. Our average yield of wheat is from twenty to thirty bushels per acre. Potatoes grow in abundance. Grass grows profusely on all the bottoms, making from one to two and a-half tons of very nutritious hay, being mostly blue-joint.

STREAMS.

The Vermillion river runs along the entire eastern side of the county, having a bottom from one to three miles in width. The West Fork, a tributary of the Vermillion, runs from the northwest corner diagonally across the county, and empties into the Vermillion near the center of the county Turkey Ridge creek has its starting point near the north western corner of the county, and runs through a bottom of unsurpassed richness, varying from three to ten miles wide, and empties into the Vermillion in the south east corner of the county. There are numerous hard wood groves along this creek, furnishing excellent fuel and building material, while numerous springs run from the ravines across the bottom land to the creek, making it one of the best watered regions in the Territory.

TOWNS.

Swan Lake, the county seat, is located four and a-half miles south east of the center of the county, on a beautiful lake from which it derives its name. It is the oldest settled place in the county. As it is on the border of the Turkey Ridge creek bottom, it has the advantage of being surrounded by good farming lands, and has three stage and mail lines running through it.

Turner City, the next oldest town, is situated on the Vermillion river, six miles east of Swan Lake, and on the eastern border of the county. It is surrounded by a valley of unsurpassed richness and beauty.

Marion is situated in the south eastern part of the county on the Vermillion and Turkey Ridge creek bottoms, ten miles southeast from Swan Lake. It is well located and a good point.

Childstown is twelve miles west and four miles north of Swan Lake, at the head of Turkey Ridge Creek—is surrounded by good, well watered and timbered land.

Ohio, in the southeastern part of the county, has a successful cheese factory operated by Laird Brothers.

Mattoon, also in the southeast part of the county, has a fine flouring mill, owned by Messrs. Baker & Douglas.

Finlay is situated on the Vermillion, ten miles northeast of Swan Lake, is surrounded by a bottom well adapted for farming or stock raising, also possesses good water power.

SCHOOLS.

Turner county has seven school districts, in all of which school is taught one or more terms during the year.

CHURCHES.

The Protestant-Episcopal is the only denomination that has erected a building in the county yet. They erected a church at Swan Lake in 1871—W. H. H. Ross, pastor; but services are held regularly at different places and by different denominations. A project is on foot to erect a Baptist and a Catholic church at Swan Lake the coming summer, also a Congregational church in the southeastern part of the county, near Ohio.

MILLS.

A flouring mill has been erected and is doing good work in the south east corner of the county, near the town of Marion, while another is being built near Turner City, and will be in operation by the spring of 1873; and good mill privileges can be found at several points on the Vermillion river.

VACANT LANDS.

There is at present about five-sixth of Turner county vacant and can be secured by both pre-emption and homestead rights, by actual settlers. Good land can be had close to

any of the above towns, and within a short distance from market, church and schools. The school laws of the Territory, are so liberal that no settlement need be without a school. There have been about five hundred and twelve claims taken in the county. All but about twenty have been taken within the last two years, and two-thirds of the whole amount in the last eight months. This leaves a large part of the county unclaimed, and nearly the whole of it is well adapted for farming or stock raising: and there is wood enough in the limits of the county to, last a good many years, at least. In all, making it a desirable country for people looking for a home who have not the means to purchase a farm in older parts, and to those who have the means there is a good chance to invest, for judging the future by the past, no property has advanced faster and been more profitable and safer to the buyer than the real estate of the west.

In conclusion I would say—let all who are looking for homes give us a call. If they are farmers we have the land and advantages that will make a farmer's heart glad. If stock growers, our well watered prairies and rich grass will be of great good to them; if mechanics in our growing towns they will find steady employment and good wages. To merchants, I would say—we are in need of such. Our towns are short of business men and people have to travel quite a distance sometimes to get what might be found at home if we had more men with capital at hand. To old men, come to our healthy climate, you can spend your closing days in peace To young men, get a home, have a place you can call your own, that will grow in price faster, be of more good service to you in the end, than anything else you can spend your time at, and this is the place you can find it. To young ladies: this is your place. Do not stay in crowded cities on scanty wages and in impure air. Come and breath the pure air of Dakota. A good girl can earn from two to three dollars per week, and her living out will be only an apprenticeship, as there are lots of good young men looking for wives. To all come, we have room and need you

Yours Truly,

VALE P. THIELMAN.

TURNER, TURNER COUNTY, D. T.,
November 15th, 1872.

JAMES S. FOSTER,

Commissioner of Immigration:

DEAR SIR:—Turner county was organized January, 1871, and at that time had only five families within its borders. At present we have an actual population of seven or eight hundred, mostly emigrants of the present year.

The town is situated twenty-five miles north of Vermillion, and intermediate between Yankton the capital, and Sioux Falls, a thriving town on the eastern border of the Territory. Turner county contains eighteen townships of land, watered by the Vermillion river, which runs through six townships on the east side; Turkey Ridge creek, which waters portions of eight townships near the center; The West Fork of the Vermillion, which passes through four of the most northern townships; and Saddle creek, which flows through three of the eastern townships. Besides these streams, the county is interspersed with lakes and small ponds. Swan Lake, the largest of these, is situated near the center of the county. Flag Lake is about four miles northwest of Swan Lake. Good wells can be had by digging from ten to thirty feet.

There is timber in different parts of the county, but in limited quantities. Oak, ash, and elm wood is furnished to settlers at from $3.00 to $7.00 per cord.

The land near the Vermillion river, and on either side of creeks, is a level bottom of very rich, deep black loam, producing hay enough for the wants of a dense population. The rest of the county is gently rolling, very rich soil, which produces wheat, oats, barley, corn, and all the cereals in great abundance far exceeding the settlers most sanguine expectations. As much as I have traveled over this county, I have found scarcely a foot of land, not occupied by the rivers and lakes, that was not good for farming purposes.

Our market is at present a home one, and will be as long as we have such a heavy immigration as we have had during the past year; and by the time this is supplied there will be Railroads running through our county. We have one good water power flouring mill on the Vermillion in the northeastern part of the county, owned by W. Baker

Another grist mill is building at the thriving town of Turner, ten miles above Mr. Baker's mill. This mill is being built by William and John W. Turner. Two more energetic and enterprising men cannot be found elsewhere in the Territory. Although these men are above seventy years of age, they are as athletic and hopeful as the generality of men at thirty. The dam is completed and the fall nearly so, through the exertions of these two men, who have had no assistance, nor desiring any.

Dry goods and grocery stores are located at Turner, Swan Lake and Centerville, and there will soon be stores at Finaly Childstown, Ohio, and Ashville.

There is a tri-weekly stage running from Yankton to Swan Lake, thence to Turner and Sioux Falls; also a semi-weekly stage from Vermillion valley via Bloomingdale, Centerville, Ohio, Turner and Swan Lake. Post offices are established at all the above places but two, and they will be immediately supplied.

Church services are held at all the towns nearly every Sunday by the representatives of the different denominations. The Episcopal Society have erected a church edifice at Swan Lake, the county seat, and intend erecting one at Turner next year.

Sunday schools are organized and in a prosperous condition. Good public schools are organized at Turner and Swan Lake, and many other districts will organize in the Spring.

The railroad prospects of the county are good, as the Yankton, Sioux Falls, and Minnesota railroad passes through the county east and west, and the Vermillion Valley railroad, running north and south, intersects the first named road at Turner. These two roads will soon be built, affording an outlet for the surplus grain of this excellent region.

There is plenty of Government land to be had near any of the towns in this county, but after the emigration of another year this will not be the case.

W. I. BUNKER,

County Surveyor.

MATTOON, TURNER COUNTY, D. T.,
November 13th, 1872.

JAMES S. FOSTER,
Commissioner of Immigration;

DEAR SIR:—I deem it my duty to give you a short sketch of this section. Improvements are being made on a large scale, several farmers having broken this season over one hundred acres of land, and made other improvements to match. Messrs. Douglas & Baker have completed their grist mill at this place, and Andrew Baker has a blacksmith shop. Hotel accommodations are offered by Dr. F. Smith, and a cheese factory has been operated here by the Laird Brothers, with excellent success. Mr. B. Boston has also manufactured good cheese and makes it profitable. Those farmers having old ground or last year's breaking had excellent crops this year. W. Lowery, raised forty bushels of wheat per acre, and sixty-three and a-half bushels of oats, and fifty bushels of barley, and three hundred bushels of potatoes. Mr. A. Ayers raised eighty-nine bushels of wheat, sixty-three of oats and fifty-three of barley per acre. Dr. F. Smith raised thirty-seven bushels of wheat, sixty-seven bushels of oats and two hundred and eighty bushels of potatoes per acre. This is about the average of the crops in this neighborhood. Mattoon is in the Vermillion valley, just north of the Clay county line and is second to no section in Dakota in agricultural advantages. An abundance of good vacant land can be found near to us which we invite settlers to occupy and improve.

ANDREW BAKER.

UNION COUNTY.

BIG SIOUX, UNION COUNTY, DAKOTA TERRITORY,
November 17th, 1872.

JAMES S. FOSTER,
Commissioner of Immigration:

SIR:—Having seen your card asking for information of any kind, I will send a few facts which may not be out of

place. I am engaged in the cultivation of hops and presume likely have the only yard in the Territory. I planted five and one half acres, May 22nd, 1872; would have had at least half a crop if I had poled my plants. Received my roots from Wisconsin. Intend enlarging my yard four and one half acres next spring. This portion of Union county seems to be the native country of the hop, as they grow wild in the greatest profusion. I am satisfied that we can, with our rich soil, raise at least one-fourth larger crops per acre than either the hop growers of New York or Wisconsin.

Our corn in the Missouri bottom will average about sixty bushels per acre. Wages are good. Monthly hands rate from thirty to forty dollars per month, board of course included. Choppers get one dollar per cord, and an ordinary man can earn from two fifty to three dollars per day. Timber lands range from four to as high as twenty dollars per acre; all of which is easy of access, and within six miles of a railroad station. Wishing you success &c.,

I am, Very Respectfully,
Your Obt. Sev't,
JAMES H. ADAMS.

TEXAS, UNION COUNTY, DAKOTA TERRITORY,
November 15th, 1872.

JAMES S. FOSTER,

Commissioner of Immigration:

SIR:—Texas is situated six miles south of Elk Point on the left bank of the Missouri river and in the midst of one of the heaviest timber skirts of the Missouri valley. Has one of the best saw, shingle, lath, planing, and matching mills, owned by S. B. Stough. The saw mill of Hoffman & Letter, is two miles northwest of this place, and considered to be the best saw-mill west of the Mississippi. Another saw-mill two miles southeast is kept by Charles Patten. Marion is Post master, and his office is supplied by a weekly mail route from Elk Point to Ponca, Nebraska. The surrounding country is high bottom, not subject to overflow, and is one of the best grain growing sections of the county. The heavy timber skirt along the Missouri gives a shelter against the north-

west storms that makes the country highly adapted for raising winter wheat, timothy, apples, grapes and other hardy fruits, and facilitates stock raising in a great measure. The average price of land is ten dollars per acre, for prairie, and eighteen dollars for timber. Settlement commenced abovt ten years ago and some highly improved farms are in the neighborhood. By he approach of winter, many new settlers of the prairie seek refuge from the heavy winter storms, in winter and make good wages in cutting and hauling timber, logs, ties, cottonwood, &c. At Texas many farmers of Nebraska cross the solid bridge of ice in winter, to bring their produce to Elk Point, their nearest market. A reliable ferry boat, with a good tread-power, will be run next summer by Peter Ulrich, an experienced ferryman. Jacob Harsh is the landlord of the Texas tavern, and accommodates travelers in the most satisfactory manner. Any farther information will be cheerfully given by your informant.

PETER ULRICH.

VIRGINIA P. O., UNION COUNTY, D. T.

JAMES S. FOSTER,

Commissioner of Immigration:

SIR:—I wish to have the northern portion of Union county represented in your forthcoming pamphlet. The soil is a deep black loam with clay sub-soil, varying from one to fou feet in depth. The surface is gently rolling on the uplands, while the river and creek bottoms are perfectly level.

The water is of the very best quality, numerous springs of pure soft water gush from the bluffs and make their way to the river, or are lost in the bottoms before reaching the river. Good wells are obtained by digging from eight to thirty feet

The uplands are covered with the best of grass for stock, and in the ravines or valleys there is abundance of blue stem grass for hay, yielding from one to three tons per acre. The famous Brule creek rises in Lincoln county, and runs south through Union county, emptying into the Big Sioux at Richland. Along this stream the bottom lands vary in width from one to three miles. There is a fine settlement of well-to-do farmers along this creek, mostly settled within the last two

years. Wheat in this vicinity this year yields from 15 to 40 bushels per acre; corn, as high as one hundred bushels along the river bottoms, where the land is under a good state of cultivation.

Good vacant land can be found in large quantities in the northern part of Union, and southern part of Lincoln counties, on or near the forty-third parallel of north latitude. Some of the finest lands in the world remain untouched yet.

There's not stone enough in this county to stone its wells; very few being found in any locality on the surface of the ground.

This place is within a day's drive of three railroads. The Dakota Southern, at Elk Point, 15 miles distant; Illinois Central, at LeMars, Iowa, and the St. Paul & Sioux City, also at LeMars, only thirty miles distant.

Wood can be had here for three dollars per cord, and it is an easy trip from these vacant lands to the timber and return in a day. These vacant lands are being rapidly taken, and where flourishing settlements are to-day, one year ago there was not a house. Lumber sells here at twelve to sixteen dollars per thousand. There are plenty of grist mills in easy distance of these lands on every side. Information will be cheerfully given to any persons desiring to locate in this section of country.

Yours,

J. F. FOLSOM.

JAMES S. FOSTER,

Commissioner of Immigration:

Union county, by virtue of its position, the character of its soil, the extent of its territory and the diversity and amount of its natural resources, stands foremost in the rank of Dakota counties. In form it appears like an irregular triangle with rounded outline, whose base rests upon the counties of Clay and Lincoln, and whose sides and surface, fit like a wedge between the States of Iowa and Nebraska. The Missouri river, one of the greatest arteries of trade upon the Continent, flows along its suothern side, dividing it from the State of Nebraska, while the Big Sioux, a stream possessing immense hydraulic power, divides it from the State of Iowa.

Its greatest length from north to south is forty-two miles, and greatest width from east to west, seventeen miles. It contains five hundred and fifty square miles of land, or, in round numbers, 345,000, acres.

THE SOIL AND SURFACE.

On half of its entire area is bottom land, lying in the valleys of the Missouri and the Sioux. In these valleys the soil is a rich, dark sandy loam, with a slight admixture of clay, and particularly adapted to the growth of wheat, corn, potatoes, &c. It is no uncommon thing to see corn, in the valley of the Missouri, attain a hight of twelve or fourteen feet, and this crop yields from sixty to eighty bushels per acre. Wheat, potatoes, oats, corn, barley, and all the staple crops known to northern latitudes grow here, and yield to the full satisfaction of the husbandman. The soil upon the table lands of the county is a pure dark loam, suited to the production of wheat. In the valleys, the soil varies in depth from three to ten feet; on the table land from two to four feet, but at no point in the county is the soil less than two feet deep. It is generally light and mellow, and scarcely one half of the labor devoted to plowing eastern land, is required here.

TIMBER.

The Missouri river tor twenty miles, along the whole length of the southern line of the county, is bordered by immense forests of cottonwood, elm, ash, hackberry and blackwalnut. The average width of this belt of timber is two and a half miles. Along the Sioux for a distance of 50 miles, the whole eastern border of the county is skirted with groves of cottonwood, maple and willow. It may be safely estimated that the timber of Union county is sufficient to supply the wants of her people for a century to come, and the artificial groves now being planted constitute ample provision for unborn generations.

POPULATION.

The total voting population of Union county on the 1st of January, 1872, was 1,184, which, multiplied by five would give us a total population of 5,920.

TAXATION AND FINANCE.

The total valuation of real and personal poperty, taxable in Union county, according to the assessment rolls

on January 1st, 1872, was $856,834.56 This estimate may seem extraordinarily small for a county so rich in agricultural wealth and every acre of which is capable of a high state of cultivation: but it must be remembered that three-fourths of the real estate of the county is occupied by settlers under the homestead and pre-emption laws, whose real estate is not taxable until they receive their patents from the United States. The general tax for Territorial and county purposes is 11 mills upon the dollar of valuation. This, however does not include the district school tax, which varies in the districts from five to ten mills, making the total taxation for all purposes from sixteen to twenty-one mills upon the dollar of valuation.

The debt of Union county is about $3,000, and for the payment of this the county will make provision at the next session of her county commissioners.

STREAMS.

The streams that drain and water Union county, are the Missouri and the Big Sioux rivers, and the Brule, Union, and Patte creeks.

RAILROADS.

The Dakota Southern, from Sioux City, Iowa, to Yankton, is now completed through this county, and will be finished to Yankton early in 1873. This road runs accross the whole southern portion of the county, a distance of twenty miles. The McGregor & Missouri river road is surveyed across the northern end of the county. Its terminal points are McGregor, Iowa, and Yankton, Dakota Territory.

UNION COUNTY AS A HOME FOR IMMIGRANTS.

According to the estimates of the county surveyor, there are still vacant in this county, at least 36,000 acres of Government land. This is situated chiefly in the northeast corner of the county, and is well calculated for farming and stock-raising.

Inproved farms may be purchased at from five, to twenty dollars per acre, according to location and character of the improvements. Business lots at Elk Point, the county seat, sell from $100 to $300, and residence lots from $25.00 to $200, each.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

The county is divided into nine townships, and its government at present consists of the following officers; County Commissioners: Messrs. Beaumont, Curry, Compton, Hubbard, Kellogg, Larson, Montague, Vinson and Wakeman. County Treasurer and Judge of Probate, U. H. Akers; Register of Deeds and county clerk, D. W. Hasson: District Attorney, J. F. Folsom; County Superintendent of Public Instruction, Rev. O. S. Bryan; County Surveyor, W. M. Vinson; Sheriff, J. H. Bryan; and Coronor, Dr. John Treman. The county is represented in the Territorial Council by Captain Alexander Hughes, Dr. O. F. Stevens, and Major Henry Smith, and in the House of Representatives, by Cyrus Knapp, W. Hamilton, Samuel Ashmore, Michael Glynn and Silas Rohr.

Elk Point is the county seat, and the principal county officers, also Hon. E. W. Miller, Territorial Superintendent of Public Instruction reside at, and have their offices in this place.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

Elk Point and Richland are the only towns in the county. In addition to these there are Post offices at Big Sioux, Adelescat, Liberty, Texas City, Blair, Virginia, Spink, and Sioux Valley, but none of the hamlets that cluster around these post offices contain more than a dozen houses, and none of them, as a consequence, can be dignified by the name of town.

ELK POINT.

Elk Point, the county seat and chief town of Union county, is situated about four miles from the Missouri river, and four miles south of the Big Sioux, on the line of the Dakota Southern railroad. It is about twenty-one miles west of Sioux City, Iowa, and a little over forty miles east from Yankton, the Capital of Dakota. The population is between five-hundred and six hundred, which exhibits an increase of at least eighty per cent. within the year of 1872.

The inhabitants are principally Americans, not more than ten per cent. being foreign born. Of mechanical and mercantile establishments, there are one bank, (Union County Bank): four general stores, two hardware stores, two lumber yards.

one drug store, three grain warehouses, a steam flouring mill and elevator, (mill and elevator in course of construction,) two meat markets, two hotels, two blacksmith shops, two tin shops, a harness shop, two milliners, two restaurants, one bakery, two boot and shoe stores, one livery stable, a wagon shop, and a furniture factory, and five grog shops.

The professions, are represented, by five lawyers, two physicians, and clergymen of the Baptist, Methodist, and Episcopal denominations.

The town contains a weekly newspaper—Republican in politics, and is edited by Charles F. Mallahan.

RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

The United Brethern, Methodists, and Episcopalians have church buildings, and the Baptists contemplate the erection of an edifice in the immediate future.

For the education of the rising generation, the enterprising people of Elk Point have made liberal and ample provision. The town contains two schools; one of these is devoted to the education of young children, and the other to the education of pupils studying the higher branches.

SITUATION AND COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES.

Owing to its position as the commercial centre of a magnificent agricultural country, Elk Point enjoys a large and profitable trade. As a grain and general produce market, it is the best point in the Territory. With only a mere show of competition from the hamlets around it, it has a monopoly of the grain trade, in a region over fifteen miles in diameter. As specific evidences of this fact, we may authoritively state, that the traders of Elk Point have bought wheat at the average rate of twelve to fifteen hundred bushels per day during the month of December, 1872. In return for this grain the farmers purchase agricultural implements, groceries, dry-goods, &c., thus sustaining many branches of business, while mechanics in all the ordinary trades, are sustained as absolute necessities of the country.

The position of Elk Point is an excellent one; east of it, there is no town nearer than Sioux City—twenty miles—and on its west side Vermillion—fifteen miles distant—is the nearest town. North and south it has no competition. In addition to the advantage of a good location, it is blessed with

rich natural resources in its immediate vicinity. An immense forest of cottonwood, and other timber, skirts the Missouri river, south of the town. This forest contains thousands of acres; and in turning this into lumber for building and fencing, some six steam saw mills are employed, within six miles of the town—two of them within two miles. The rich, luxuriant wild grasses of the prairie around Elk Point, adapt the country to the raising of stock; and, taking advantages of this gratuitous provision of nature, the people make this industry a profitable one.

Immigrants will find it to their advantage, if passing through Dakota, to stop at Elk Point, and see it for themselves before proceeding further. Parties in the east who contemplate emigrating, may receive more definite and specific information by addressing U. W. Weston, J. W. Hoffman, or Akers & Miller, Elk Point, Dakota.

RICHLAND,

A village of some twenty houses is situated about six miles north east of Elk Point.

U. W. WESTON.

YANKTON COUNTY.

YANKTON, YANKTON COUNTY, DAKOTA TERRITORY,
November 20th, 1872.

JAMES S. FOSTER,

Commissioner of Immigration:

SIR:—The following facts concerning this county are furnished in compliance with the request in your circular of October 15th, 1872.

Yankton county is one of the southern tier, and is bounded on the north by Hutchinson and Turner, on the east, by Turner and Clay, on the south by the State of Nebraska, from which it is separated by the Missouri river, and on the west by Bon Homme county. The Dakota river runs diagonally through the county from north west to southeast. Along the

Missouri river, the level bottom lands extend for miles back from the river, to the bluff or bench land, which is from ten to thirty feet higher than the bottoms. These bottom lands are extremely rich, and yield in a state of nature a luxuriant growth of grass, which makes as good hay for stock as the best timothy or clover. When cultivated they yield large crops of corn, oats and vegetables, but for wheat they are not better than the upland. The bottoms along the Dakota river are not so wide, being not over half a mile wide on each side of the river. These bottom lands are also very rich, and as they are sheltered on the west and north by the bluffs they are excellent situations for stock raising, the bottoms yielding a bountiful supply of hay, and the bench land being well adapted to pasturage or tillage. The greater portion of the county is rolling prairie with very little broken land that is not well adapted to cultivation.

Several streams run through the county, which with numerous lakes, and springs, generally furnish plenty of stock water. If no stream or spring is at hand a good well can be had by digging from twelve to thirty feet. Stone suitable for stoning wells are found on the table lands.

TIMBER,

Is found along the rivers in considerable quantities, the kind of wood being mostly cottonwood, oak, ash, maple and elm. Much timber is found in ravines extending back from the Missouri and Dakota river bottoms to the table lands. Within the last three years many groves of young cottonwood have been planted. Some of the trees have reached the height of thirty feet, and measure two feet in circumference. It is but little more trouble to plant a grove of cottonwood than to plant a field of corn; in fact these trees are planted in each alternate hill with corn and cultivated for a year or two with the corn. These groves not only add beauty to the landscape, but in the short space of five or six years will furnish fuel sufficient for the use of a family.

FRUIT.

Has not been raised extensively in Dakota yet. Enough has been tried, however, to prove that there is no obstacle to prevent its growth and maturity. At the Yankton county Agricultural Fair, for 1872, samples of cherries and peaches were

exhibited grown in this county. It is only about two years since tame fruits have been cultivated. Wild fruits grow profusely. Grapes, plums, gooseberries, currants and buffalo berries are quite plenty, and since they grow spontaneously, it is presumed that other varieties can be cultivated successfully.

STONE.

The building stone of Yankton is one of its peculiar features. We have a kind of soft lime stone called "chalk stone," because it is when first quarried soft as chalk and can be used for marking like chalk. It can be readily sawed into shape for building, or hewn with an ax. When exposed to the weather it becomes harder and makes a perfectly solid wall, much cheaper than brick, and when properly put up and ornamented, makes a beautiful house, resembling granite. This stone is found in inexhaustible quantities within half a mile of the city of Yankton. A large grist mill and several elegant residences have been constructed of this material. The Catholic church in Yankton is built of chalk stone, and the new Methodist Episcopal church, now in process of construction is being built of this material. It has been tested for ten years and no objection is raised against it as yet, and probably never will be.

SOIL.

The soil of Yankton county resembles that of the other counties in southern Dakota. The bottom lands having a deep rich soil composed of a vegetable mould mixed with sand, and is generally considered richer than the uplands, which have a similar soil, but not quite so deep. It is however not a settled fact that the bottom lands are more productive than the basin lands of the rolling prairie. The greatest yields of wheat this year have generally been from upland farms thoroughly cultivated, having been plowed from ten to twelve inches deep. There is no difficulty in raising a good crop, either on upland or bottoms if properly cultivated. Wheatfields in this county have generally yielded from eighteen to twenty-five bushels per acre; while many have produced thirty-two bushels. Corn was not a heavy crop this year; many fields being injured by insects, but generally corn yielded forty to fifty bushels per acre. The growth of vegeta-

bles is truly surprising. At the Yankton county fair, three squashes were exhibited, grown on the highest land in the county, which together weighed two hundred and sixty-two pounds. One water melon that weighed forty-three and a half pounds, and a potato weighing two and a half pounds. Cabbages, beets and carrots were exhibited that would astonish any person not accustomed to western gardening.

Sweet potatoes are successfully raised.

Peanuts grow well but are not extensively cultivated.

Sorghum thrives here and is a profitable crop. Broom corn and tobacco also grow finely but not much attention is given to their cultivation.

The principal crop is wheat, then follows corn, oats, barley and potatoes.

STOCK RAISING.

Previous to the passage of the "herd law" cattle were permitted to run at large and cultivated fields were fenced, hence it was more profitable to raise stock than to break and fence a field for cultivation. The passage of the herd law has in a measure reversed the order of things. The stock being fenced in and the cultivated fields being unprotected by fence. Many people herd their cattle, keeping a man on horseback with the herd through the day and bringing the stock in at night and securing them in a large yard or "corral" When a settler has but one or two cows he can fasten them to a stake by a long rope, driving the stake in a new place at least once a day. This enables the settler with small means to cultivate his fields without stopping to fence. When fences are required they are frequently made by setting posts twenty feet apart and stretching wire on them and then fastening stays sawed on purpose from cottonwood two inches square and four feet long perpendicularly across the wires by means of small staples. This makes the cheapest and perhaps best kind of fence. Some farmers build "post and rail" fence by means of morticing the rails into the posts making a firm and durable fence. Occasionally a common board fence is constructed, but few farms are fenced with boards of late.

SETTLEMENTS.

Yankton county is quite thickly settled in the southern portion including about one half of the county. The inhabitants are mainly "Yankees," with a sprinkling of Germans and

Irish. The eastern portion of the county is however quite largely settled by Scandinavians, who are industrious and economical and generally thrifty. The western portion of the county is settled mostly by Bohemians, who have made great progress in opening up farms, considering that they have only been settled there for two or three years.

SCHOOLS.

Good public schools are organized in all the settlements and much interest is manifested to keep them up to the standard of schools in the States.

YANKTON ACADEMY AND DAKOTA HALL

Are two institutions for the instruction of advanced pupils, both of which are located at Yankton.

The former was organized during the present year, and has a fine new building, and accommodates at present about 100 pupils. The latter has been in operation for several years, and is under the control of the Episcopal Denomination. It has a good school building and is well patronized.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

The religious denominations holding service in this county are Congregationalists, Episcopals, Catholics, Methodists, Baptists and United Brethren. The Scandinavians are generally Lutherans and have service at their chapel in the eastern portion of the county. The other denominations hold service in Yankton. Good sabbath schools are connected with the churches, which are well attended.

MARKETS.

The market of Yankton county is at present a home market and will doubtless be for years to come. The demand for produce by immigrants is considerable and whatever surplus there in cereals or vegetables is required in the upper country at the military posts and agencies to feed the soldiers and the Indians to whom rations are regularly issued by Government. The extra produce of Yankton county is always shipped up the river or freighted by teams when the river is closed. Wheat started last fall at seventy-five cents in Yankton and run up to eighty-five cents, but since has fallen down to seventy cents, but there is no doubt but it will bring $1,00 before the opening of navigation. Oats are worth twenty-five, and corn thirty to thirty-five cents per bushel.

Potatoes, twenty-five cents; pork $4.50 per cwt, butter thirty cents per pound; beef, twelve and one half per pound at the market; apples $5.00 per barrel. Groceries about the same as at the east with slight additions for freight. Flour $3.50 per hundred; wood soft $5.00 and hard wood $6 00 per cord Hay $6.00 per tun.

BUILDING MATERIALS.

A good quality of brick is made and delivered at Yankton for seven dollars and fifty cents per thousand. Several elegant brick blocks have been erected in Yankton the past season and the quality of our brick tested. Brick clay can be found anywhere in the Territory.

The chalk stone quarries also furnish a good material for building which is said to be cheaper than brick and quite as durable.

Pine lumber sells here at reasonable rates being brought from Minneapolis, Minnesota, by the St. Paul & Sioux City railroad to Sioux City, and thence by the Dakota Southern railroad to Yankton without change of cars.

REAL ESTATE.

The price of good farming lands in this county does not vary from that of Union or Clay counties, being from $500 to $1,000, for a good quarter section of upland, and from $1000, to 1,500, for bottom lands unimproved. If the improvements on the land are valuable their cost is generally added to the prices given above. Near the city of Yankton good lands sell for fifty and one hundred dollars per acre, and at a distance of two miles at from twenty-five to fifty dollars per acre City lots in the business part of the town of Yankton sell at $1,500 to $2,000 per lot; residence lots at from two hundred to five hundred dollars, per lot. Lots one half mile from the center of town can be had from fifty to one hundred dollars each.

CLIMATE.

The climate is somewhat warmer than in the same latitude farther east. Spring comes nearly 10 days earlier here than in Illinois and the winter full two weeks later than east of the Mississippi. The following report of the weather for one year ending December 1st, 1872, was handed us by the Superintendent of Public Schools.

A United States Signal Station has been located here this season, and we shall probably be favored with weather statistics from the Signal officer, also.

YANKTON DAKOTA TERRITORY
December 17th, 1872.

MR JAMES S FOSTER,

Commissioner of Immigration

DEAR SIR —I began in November 1871 to keep a brief record of the weather, mainly with reference to the winds and the rain I find that from November 1st 1871, to November 1st, 1872, there were one hundred and forty-two days marked "still" in which there was not even a light breeze. Forty-eight days are charged with having high winds The remaining days were characterized as having "light winds" Of these a large part of many of them would be perfectly still, the breeze often not beginning until after 2 p m Again some of the days marked as "windy" were still either in the early morning or after 4 p m. Rain fell on fifty-eight days Snow on thirty nine days There was no rain in December 1871, or February 1872 May and August each had nine rainy days or nights for as you are aware our rains almost always come in the night The first frost hard enough to wilt leaves of the tomatoes in my garden was October tenth. The first snow fell October thirtieth The last snow of the spring was April 5th which was only a little squally. The trees were green before that time and the sowing of small grain finished

Yours &c

JOSEPH WARD

FUEL.

Wood is easily obtained for fuel along the rivers, creeks and ravines. Whenever an early settler has taken a timber claim he is willing to sell it off in tracts to suit the purchasers, at from $10 to $50 per acre, according to amount and quality of timber, and distance from any considerable town. Cottonwood sells in the villages of Dakota at from $3.00 per cord for green wood to $5.00 for dry wood, and hard wood from $4.00 to $7.00, according to its condition. Coal is not yet introduced but will be next season, for the three railroads extending into Dakota all pass through coal regions in Iowa and Minnesota, and can furnish coal at reasonable rates. But it is almost certain that coal exists in our very midst. It is found in large quantities 120 miles east of us, and within the same distance south of us, while along the Missouri River, in our own Territory, in the western and northwestern portions, now unsettled, extensive coalfields exist, cropping out along the river banks from six to eight feet in depth As soon as our railroads are extended a little further, coal can be supplied to the settlers of central and southeastern Dakota from our own coalfields

FOREST TREES.

Can be planted as easily as a field of corn, and will grow in five years from the size of a common walking stick to trees nine to twelve inches in circumference. Almost every farmer plants forest trees the first or second year, and soon has a beautiful grove in summer and a "wind break" in winter, and in four or five years he has, without much expense, a grove of young timber, from which much fuel can be obtained and at the end of eight or ten years five acres will furnish fuel for one family.

CORN FOR FUEL.

To an eastern man where corn bears a high price this seems *wickedly* extravagant, but to a western man who is in the habit of seeing large fields of corn yielding thousands of bushels, and bringing a low price when hauled to market, there is nothing strange in the announcement that the Ogden House, at Council Bluffs, Iowa, one of the best kept hotels at the west is warmed with corn used for fuel. Twenty-nine bushels of ears of corn weighs a ton, and at the rate of 25 cents per bushel would be worth $7.25. It has been ascertained that a ton of corn is equal to a cord of the best hard wood, worth here $7.00 per cord, and when prepared for the stove it costs $8.50 per cord. We see then that corn is quite as economical as wood or coal, and much cleaner and easier handled. Corn makes a very hot fire, and for cooking purposes it is superior to wood, except it be hickory.

We do not propose to advocate the burning of corn for fuel, because a much better use can be made of it at present, but we simply mention this fact to show that in prairie countries, remote from timber and railroads it is easy to provide fuel by raising a few acres of corn extra, until a grove of cottonwood can be planted and grown to a sufficient size for fuel.

We copy several short newspaper items to show that corn is frequently used for fuel throughout the west; even where wood and coal are tolerably plenty, and railroads convenient:

The *Sioux City Journal* says: "Sac City burns corn for fuel;" and the Omaha *Tribune* and *Republican* in a late issue says: "Corn is called prairie coal in Kansas, owing to the use it is put to."

PEAT

is found in central Dakota, but settlers have not found it nec-

essary to resort to extreme measures to obtain fuel. There is wood in sufficient quantities for fuel until our Territory shall be "grid-ironed" with railroads to carry coal to every settlement. Fuel is nearly as cheap to day, in Dakota, as in New England, and with the opening of the inexhaustible beds of coal along the Missouri River, to the west and north of us, it will be furnished still cheaper.

POST OFFICES.

Marindall, Boreman, Washington, Ziskov, Utica and Lakeport, are post-offices in different parts of the county. At two of these small stores are kept, and at others blacksmith shops are located. At present none of these places make any pretentions to rank even as country villages; but being surrounded as they are by an agricultural community, will sometime be the center of a limited local trade.

RAILROADS.

The Dakota Southern Railroad running from Sioux City to Yankton up the Missouri River bottoms, enters the county twelve miles east of Yankton, and terminates at Yankton, the capital of the Territory and the county seat of Yankton county. The completion of the Dakota Southern is a source of joy to the people of Yankton county. It insures quicker transit of passengers, and will be of incalculable value to the City of Yankton. The terminus of a railroad, especially an east and west line, has great advantages over other towns generally; while in this particular instance we look for the removal of the forwarding warehouse from Sioux City to Yankton, and the consequent transfer of the vast amount of river transportation to this city. In summer, lines of steamboats will start from Yankton for the upper river posts and towns; and in winter all goods will be sent forward by wagons, the same as been done from Sioux City for the last three years. With the opening of the Dakota Southern, a new life has been infused into Yankton, Vermillion and Elk Point. It insures cheaper pine lumber for the erection of buildings. It will reduce the cost of freight on all goods, because they will have to be handled less. It will insure the safe and speedy transportation of all persons wishing to visit our city hereafter, (which was not the case before.) It will equalize the price of produce, never allowing it to go to extremes of high and low prices as heretofore. It will have a tendency to fill up Yank-

ton county, and afterwards Hutchinson, Bon Homme and Turner, with enterprising settlers who will go to the end of the railroad and there select a location; in short it will do for us in this vicinity what the railroad has done for Sioux City, and the counties of Union, Clay and Lincoln in Dakota.

Other railroads are in contemplation, in fact are organized and surveyed, and will soon be built. The first of which will be, perhaps, the Dakota Central extending up the Dakota River to tap the Northern Pacific, or the Yankton, Sioux Falls and Minnesota Railroad from Yankton to some point on the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad. This will give a direct route to the pineries of Minnesota, and open up a rich country. The Columbus and Yankton Railroad from Yankton to Columbus, in Nebraska, on the Union Pacific, is destined soon to be built, while the Omaha and Northwestern is pointing to Yankton as her Northwestern feeder. The McGregor and Yankton Railroad will also be pushed to an early completion. Railroad lines are projected from Yankton to Springfield, in Bon Homme county, via Bon Homme. All these roads will soon be built, and perhaps others whose existence we know of only on paper now, but which may become a pleasing reality by and by.

YANKTON,

The capital of the Territory, and county seat of Yankton county, is beautifully located on the north bank of the Missouri river, (which, from this place, runs from west to east,) on a level plateau, comprising about six hundred and forty acres of ground, which is surrounded by a semi-circle of sloping hills, rising to the heighth of sixty feet above the plateau, furnishing elegant sites for public buildings and private residences, overlooking the river, the town, and the rich farming country on both sides of the Missouri. It is regularly laid out, with streets running north and south from the river to the bluffs, one mile in length and 100 feet in width, some of the principal streets being 120 feet wide and 130 feet wide. The east and west streets, crossing the former at right angles, are all eighty feet wide.

The population of Yankton is upwards of two thousand, mostly Americans, with some Germans, Scandinavians and Irish

The business of the town is extensive, having a large trade with the upper river country and the Dakota river valley, which lies directly north of the city. A large trade is received from Nebraska, on the opposite side of the river. There are at present about thirty stores in the city, including dealers in dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, clothing, hardware, drugs, furniture, books, fruits, millinery goods, and crockery. There are seven hotels, besides boarding houses.

In addition to the above, there are two banks, two breweries, two bakers, three harness makers, two tin shops, five shoe shops, three tailor shops, four blacksmith shops, one academy, one seminary, one public school, two brick yards, one lumber yard, three printing offices, three real estate dealers, four insurance offices, two livery stables, one large flouring mill, two agricultural warerooms, one steam saw mill, two photograph galleries, ten law offices, five physicians, five religious denominations, three markets, a steam ferry, four carpenter shops, and a full complement of saloons.

It also has the various Territorial offices, including that of the Governor, Secretary, Surveyor General, U. S. Marshal, U. S. Attorney General, Internal Revenue Assessor, Register in Bankruptcy, and one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court. It also has the offices for the several Yankton county officers.

Yankton is the terminus of the Dakota Southern Railroad, from which the city expects to derive great benefit, greatly increasing its business and population. Without the railroad, Yankton has grown to be a town of some local importance, and with its aid it cannot fail to improve rapidly.

HOMESTEADS.

Dakota has several millions of acres of good farming lands now open for homesteads or pre-emptions. The provisions of the homestead law are so well known to every one that but little need be said on this subject. Every citizen (male or female) who is twenty-one years of age, or the head of a family, or who has served fourteen days in the military service of the United States, and every person who may have declared his intention to become a citizen, is entitled to a homestead of 160 acres of prairie or timber land, upon the payment of $14.00 at the local land office, of which there are four in Da-

kota—one at Vermillion, Clay Co.: one at Yankton, Yankton Co.; one at Springfield, Bon Homme Co., and one at Pembina, Pembina Co. After entering the land by payment of the fee aforesaid, and filing an application in the land office, describing the land claimed, the homesteader has six months in which to make his preparations to move onto the land if he chooses to wait, or he can go on immediately and erect his house and break land and occupy and improve the said homestead in the same manner and with as much safety as if he had a patent for the same, provided he continues to reside upon and improve said land. At the expiration of five years from the date of his entry of said land by filing his application and paying the fee aforesaid, the homesteader is permitted to prove by two good witnesses that he has resided upon said land and made it his exclusive home since the time of his entry (or since his settlement upon the same,) and that he has cultivated at least five acres of the land. The land officers than issue a certificate of such entry and proof which has the general effect of a warranty deed. In due course of time a patent issues and the title to the land is perfect and complete Any of the land officrs, or the Commissioner of Immigration will cheerfully answer letters of inquiry on this subject, or upon the subject of "Soldiers Homesteads." It is proper to state in this connection, that if, after the homesteader has resided upon his claim for the space of six months and made the usual improvements thereon, he shall deem it for his interest to obtain a title to his lands, he can do so by paying for the same at the rate of $1.25 per acre, and the patent issues soon thereafter the same as in the ordinary five years homestead. Persons so paying for their lands are said to "commute" their Homesteads—that is they pay the $1.25 per acre for the land in lieu of residing upon the land until the expiration of the five years.

PRE-EMPTIONS

Every citizen, or person who has declared his intention to become a citizen has a right to a pre-emption of 160 acres of Government land. He may take both a homestead and pre-emption, but cannot take but one at a time He must perfect the title to one claim, or abandon it altogether, before he can take the other The pre-emptor pays $2.00 fee to the local land officers for filing his claim to the land he may select,

and must go immediately thereon and erect a dwelling and improve the land. The size or value of the house is not prescribed in the law nor the amount of improvements to be made thereon. Within one year of the time of filing on said land the pre-emptor must make his proof of settlement and cultivation and residence and pay for the land at the rate of $1.25 per acre. The cost of improvements may not be over $100 in value, including breaking, the greatest stress being laid upon a *residence* upon the land. Any house that a settler will live in is recognized by the Government as a "house" in the meaning of the law. Agricultural College scrip can be used in payment for either homestead or pre-emption. No lands are reserved in southern Dakota; homesteaders and pre-emptors take their choice. Government lands cannot be obtained in Dakota except by homestead or pre-emptions.

SOLDIERS HOMESTEADS.

The greatest interest is manifested throughout the country in soldiers homesteads. It is hoped that the law will be so amended as to allow soldiers to enter a quarter section either in person or by an agent without the necessity of residing upon the land. The privileges, if any, conferred by the soldiers homestead law at present are not apparent The following are the directions for obtaining "soldiers homesteads" The soldier is entitled to enter a quarter section of land and obtain a patent therefor by living on said land one year, provided he has served four years in the army or navy of the United States. One year's actual residence upon the land is absolutely necessary. If the soldier is entitled to a credit of less than four years for service, then he must reside upon the land long enough to make five years with the time of such service in the army. He will be allowed six months from the time of his entry to remove upon the land and commence his improvements, but the six months so allowed and one year's actual residence and the balance in credit for army service, are the easiest terms now offered to soldiers. If the party desiring to locate a soldier's homestead is not ready to move onto the land immediately, or being a resident of an eastern State, does not wish to remove to the land located for the space of six months, and it is considered desirable to secure a particular piece of land to prevent its being taken by others, then an agent possessing a regular power of attorney may

file a "declaration of intention" for the non resident soldier and the land will be retained for him for six months, at the expiration of which time the applicant must enter the land in person or by attorney, and commence his improvements thereon. If after the first application is made the party fails to perfect his entry and subsequent occupancy of said land, it is considered a voluntary abandonment of his claim and debars him from the privilege of the law thereafter. A fee of one dollar each is allowed to both the Register and Receiver of the land office. The law does not regulate the fees or compensation of the agent or attorney. This must be arranged between the applicant and the agent.

Dakota offers excellent inducements for colonies of soldiers or single applicants. The land officers at the local land offices will gladly furnish needed information to those who desire it, including the necessary blanks. The Bureau of Immigration will also furnish information free.

INVESTMENTS.

The valuable unimproved lands entered by early settlers and now offered for sale, presents a safe and profitable investment for capitalists at the east. Money at the west draws a high rate of interest, hence many prefer to sell their lands at low figures and invest it in *mortgages or real estate* or employ it in active business under their personal supervision. Taxes are uniformly light and the Territory is out of debt. Every county in the Territory is nearly or quite out of debt and there is a disposition by the citizens not to incur needless expense. To persons of moderate means wishing to engage in agricultural pursuits, no better opportunity offers than to purchase lands near the towns of southeastern Dakota. Good quarter sections of land can be bought through responsible dealers from $500 to $800. If the land is improved or lies near a town or thoroughfare, its value will be increased Good bottom lands along the streams or rivers are valued at from eight to ten dollars per acre. Information will be furnished free by any resident of the Territory. We welcome laborers, or capitalists.

Respectfully,

F.

JAMES RIVER, YANKTON COUNTY, D. T.,
December 10th, 1872.

JAMES S. FOSTER,
Commissioner of Immigration:

DEAR SIR:—School District No. 3, in Yankton Co., embraces the section of country lying between the James river and Missouri, and is composed mostly of bottom lands. It is one of the best sections for either stock raising or grain. The average yield the past season has been fully 20 bushels per acre. Oats yielded forty to fifty bushels, and corn from fifty to sixty bushels per acre, and potatoes two hundred bushels. The excellent grass land on the bottoms in this section made stock raising a lucrative business previous to the passage of the herd law, but since that time farmers have paid more attention to the raising of grain, many of them having over one hundred acres under cultivation. This neighborhood has sustained for several years an excellent school and the nearness to market being within three miles of Yankton makes land valuable, the price varying from twenty-five to thirty dollars, per acre. There is plenty of Government land in the northern portion of this county open to homestead, and we gladly welcome all seeking a good agricultural section to visit Dakota before making a selection.

W. W. BENEDICT

LAKE COUNTY.

WICKLOW, LAKE COUNTY, DAKOTA TERRITORY,
November 20th, 1872.

TO THE HON. JAMES S. FOSTER,

Commissioner of Immigration:

DEAR SIR:—Seeing your notice in several papers requesting that parties send items from various parts of the Territory, I have concluded to drop you a few lines relative to Wicklow and its surrounding country.

WICKLOW,

The county seat of Lake county is situated amid a cluster of lakes, bordering on three, varying in size from three-fourths to seven miles in length, of the purest clear soft water, with gravel and sandy shores and abounding in fish and water fowl, the latter making the woods adjoining the shores of the lake ring with their celestial melodies, makes this one of the most pleasant resorts for pleasure seekers in the northwest.

For miles around farther than the eye can see is to be found land of the most productive character, consisting of gently rolling prairies and broad inland basins producing native grasses varying from one to five feet in height of the most nutritious quality, furnishing the basis for an agricultural and stock growing community that can not be excelled and rarely equaled in the west. At present writing good Government land can be had convenient to town, but the tide of immigration is rapidly tending thitherward and parties coming west to locate would do well to visit this place before locating elsewhere.

Fuel can be easily obtained by the settler for years to come from the timber that lines the lakes, and being situated midway between the Vermillion and the Big Sioux rivers where wood can be obtained in an easy day's drive, and the numerous peat beds peculiar to this section of Dakota together with the fact that coal exists in large quantities as it has been found on the shores of the lakes evidently being washed from the bottom of the lakes, will forever remove all fears on this question.

Native building material in the form of stone, sand, gravel, and lime can be obtained in inexhaustible quantities along the shores of the lakes, while good pine lumber can be obtained at Worthington, about sixty miles distant, on the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad, at a small advance on producers prices as it comes direct without reshipment from the Minneapolis mills and on the early completion of the Sioux Falls and Yankton railroad, timber will then be delivered at Sioux Falls, an easy day's drive. Five mail routes has been established via Wicklow, connecting it with the principal points east and south; the Winona, St. Peters & Springfield Branches of the Grand Trunk railroad, have made this a point in locating their road, and the Vermillion Valley and Sioux City & Pembina point this way: so that communication with the outside world seems to be almost within our grasp.

Trusting that you will give space in your valuable work for these few facts, I am, Sir,

Very Respectfully, yours,

J. F. Dowling.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

Letters of inquiry are frequently received asking a variety of questions, which it is impossible to answer in a printed pamphlet. Many of these questions have been plainly answered in the letters printed with this report, and others will be anticipated by the following miscellaneous information.

DANGER FROM INDIANS.

For the last five years the people of southeastern Dakota, have been perfectly free from danger from Indians. The settlements of Dakota have never suffered from Indian depredations. It is true that previous to 1865, about half a dozen settlers were killed in Dakota below Fort Randall. But since that time settlers have lived in safety on their claims far remote from each other. The wild Indians are far above Fort Randall, which is well garrisoned with soldiers. There are also many other military Forts above Fort Randall in the Indian country with troops sufficient to keep the Indians in subjection. The accounts frequently published in the papers of murders by the Indians in Dakota, are at the military posts and wood yards on the Missouri river, far up in the Indian country. Southeastern and eastern Dakota, the portion to which we invite immigration, is as free from apprehension of danger from Indians as are the people of central New York. We have a few tribes or remnants of tribes near us upon reservations, but they are becoming civilized, having their schools, and churches, and well cultivated fields.

MINERALS.

It is almost an absolute certainty that the Black Hills of western Dakota abound in gold. Such is the report of Indian guides and such others as have been permitted to enter that country. For several years the people of southern Dakota have desired to enter the "sacred hunting grounds" of the Indians and develop the mines of this coveted region. Several parties have been formed for the purpose of exploration in the Black Hills country, but as often as they have organized they have been suppressed by the strong arm of the general government, which is anxious to keep its treaties with

the Indians, so that the Indians may be induced to keep their part of the same treaties. But the time is soon coming when the barriers will be broken down that keep miners and emigrants from entering the Black Hills, known to be rich in *iron* ore of the best quality as well as *copper* and *coal*. In addition to the minerals known to exist in the Black Hills, there are heavy forests of pine, and as soon as the miner and emigrant are permitted to operate and settle in the Black Hills country, railroads will be extended from Yankton to the Black Hills, and in addition to the precious metals, vast quantities of coal, iron and pine lumber will be received therefrom. Coal is found in large quantities cropping out along the Missouri river at Forts Berthold and Stephenson, and no doubt exists in central Dakota. Salt springs are found in northern Dakota.

NEWSPAPERS.

In southeastern Dakota there are at present ten newspapers published. We give below their address and terms of publication, and advise any one wishing information to subscribe for one or more of them. Sample copies will be sent by the Commissioner of Immigration free.

	Terms per Annum.
Yankton Press—Yankton, Yankton county D. T.....	$2.00
Union and Dakotaian—Yankton, Yankton county, D. T.	2.00
Dakota Herald—Yankton, Yankton county, D. T.....	2.00
Dakota Republican—Vermillion, Clay county, D. T....	2.00
Clay County Register—Vermillion, Clay county, D. T.	2.00
Union County Courier—Elk Point, Union county, D. T.	2.00
Springfield Times—Springfield, Bon Home county, D. T.	2 00
Sioux Valley News—Canton, Lincoln county, D. T	2 00
Pantagraph—Sioux Falls, Minnehaha county, D. T. ..	2.00
Dell Rapids Journal—Dell Rapids, Minnehaha Co., D. T.	2.00

HOW TO REACH DAKOTA.

Emigrants desiring to reach southern Dakota, can take the "Illinois Central" or "Chicago & Northwestern" cars in Chicago for Sioux City, Iowa, and from there the Dakota Southern railroad to Elk Point, Vermillion or Yankton. From each of these towns lines of stages run in any direction into the country, to any desired point. Immigrants designing to settle in the fertile valley of the Big Sioux in the county of Duel, will find the Winona & St. Peters railroad nearly

completed to Lake Compeska, in Dakota, forty miles from the Minnesota line. Emigrants for the Northern Pacific country should go by way of St. Paul, Minnesota.

WHAT TO CARRY.

In answering the question, What shall we bring? we feel a little hesitation for we think circumstances may alter cases. Generally it is best not to pay freight on household furniture, cooking stoves or farming utensils, for these articles can be bought nearly as cheap at the west as at the east—and transportation costs generally more than the emigrant expects. In the towns of southern Dakota the furniture, hardware and agricultural implement dealers keep a good assortment of goods on hand and parties can rely on finding almost any thing for sale at reasonable prices that may be required in their new homes.

VACANT LANDS.

Every county has yet some land still open to homestead and pre-emptions. It is impossible to tell the emigrant which is the best land or which is the best place to locate. Each county has rivers and streams and there is sure to be bottom or meadow land and some timber either along the river banks or in ravines making down from the table lands to the creek and river bottoms. The banks or bluffs along the edge of the bottom land affords natural shelter for stock, while the upland or rolling prairie in all parts of Dakota is equally desirable.

WHEN TO START.

People who have made up their minds to go West cannot generally wait for the most convenient season, but act upon the impulse of the moment, and decide to start at once. This may be well for mechanics and capitalists, but men of small means with families, who expect to go at once onto a farm, should give some heed to the following suggestions. We have resided at the west some six years, and our observation is that the best time to reach Dakota is in May or June, or perhaps as late as July. We have admired the energy and management of some who have arrived in June, and who, after looking around, made a selection of land and filed upon it. Then, without a days' delay, they drive onto the land with their covered wagon, in which the family lives a few days, while the men break a few acres of ground, put in some

garden seeds and plant potatoes and sod corn Next to planting, a comfortable cabin is constructed, which occupies only a few days—sometimes a well is dug; next the crops must be partially fenced. By this time a month or two has passed, and it is time to commence haying; stables are built, cellars dug and the house put in order for winter. Meanwhile, the garden yields green corn, potatoes, melons, squashes and vegetables generally, which, with the milk and butter of the cows that graze contentedly around the new home, goes far to make up the living of the family. The ground planted to sod corn will raise excellent wheat the next year, so a few acres are added to the cultivated ground each year, until a fine farm is opened up, and a surplus is raised to dispose of to others. If one does not reach the Territory until August or September, the course would be much the same, except that it would be too late to plant garden and raise sod corn, consequently, after erecting a cabin, the next thing to do would be to put up the supply of hay—after which preparation should be made for winter. Some come in the fall, too late to gather hay, and pass the winter in hauling logs, lumber ,&c., preparatory to commencing the spring campaign on the farm with vigor. Others arrive early in spring, say March or April; but it will be conceded by all that May or June is the best time for settlers to reach a new country. Then the grass affords food for horses and cattle, and almost anything will answer for a shelter while putting in crops and garden, and finally the settler who begins in May is as far along in a year as he who commenced several months before him.

COLONIES

There is no question but what it is a good way to emigrate to a new country with a colony; that is a company of persons consisting of a number of families going to the same section of country to locate near each other so as to have the benefit of each others society, assistance and patronage We do not advise uniting with a colony and placing property in common. It may be well in many instances for two or more persons to unite in erecting a mill, or opening a store, but to own much property in common is apt to lead sooner or later to dissatisfaction. It is well for two or three neighbors of small means to take farms near together and unite in purchasing breaking plows and mowing machines and other imple-

ments for a while, until each shall be able to own them all-so also it is convenient to locate near each other and build the first houses near each other on account of convenience in opening farms. For a while one well will answer for two or more families until time is allowed to dig another, when the hurry of planting and harvesting is over. Judicious Emigrants will plan these matters for themselves much better than another can for them.

RENTING FARMS.

It is frequently the best plan for the emigrant to work a good farm the first year, from the income of which he can support his family and have much time to select a "claim" to his liking. There will be spare times enough during the summer to build a house on his claim, and break a quantity of land for the next year's crop. Hay can also be put up and a well dug on the premises, so that in the fall when the settler goes on to his claim it presents the appearance of an old farm. This method deprives emigration of much of its privations and inconveniences. Very likely the rented farm will be near a school house so that the children of the settler can attend school. Farms to rent are plenty and are generally let in this way—the owner of the land receiving one-third of the crop in the half bushel for the use of the farm. The houses on these farms are not generally very valuable, but are comfortable during the summer season. By the time winter has come, the settler should be on his own homestead with his winter's stock of provisions in his granary and his cattle well provided for in the way of food and shelter. Any real estate dealer can assist free of charge in finding a good farm to rent if applied to in season.

PRICE OF STOCK AND FARM IMPLEMENTS.

Work horses, each	$125 to	$150.00
Work oxen, per yoke	100 to	130.00
Cows	25 to	40.00
Wagons		100.00
Plows	20 to	30.00
Mowers		125.00
Reapers	200 to	250.00
Harness	40 to	50.00
Seed wheat per bushel		1.00
Seed oats per bushel		30
Seed corn per bushel		50
Cooking stoves	30 to	60.00
Pine lumber per M	20 to	50.00
Cotton wood lumber per M		20.00

Furniture of all kinds kept on hand and for sale at slight advance of eastern prices.

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